THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS 1850.

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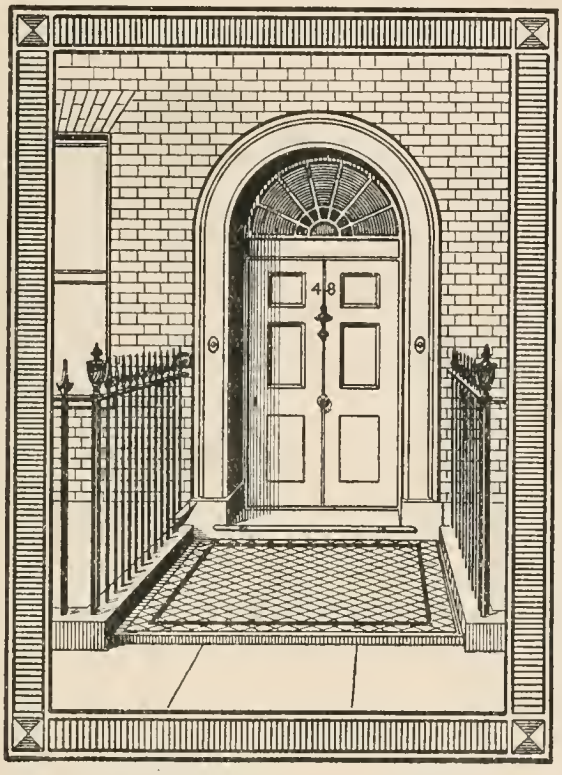

THE DICKENS HOUSE

THE

HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE

OF

CURRENT EVENTS,

(FOR THE YEAR 1850,)

BEING

A MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT TO HOUSEHOLD WORDS,

CONDUCTED BY

CHARLES DICKENS.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND SANITARY PROGRESS.

PARLIAMENT—Its opening by commission, 27; the royal speech, 27.

HOUSE OF LORDS—Debate on the, and amendment, address, 28; accommodation for foreign ministers, 147; agricultural distress, 100; Australian colonies bill, 123, 124; steam communication with, 173; breach of privilege, 148, 174; Cambridge annuity, 148, 174; chancery reform, 53, 124; civil list savings, 148, 173; clergy appeal bill, 74, 123; clergy proceedings bill, 28; convicts prisons bill, 52, 74; convict transportation, 28; county courts extension, 148, 173; Cuban expedition, 124; death of the Duke of Cambridge, 148; death of Sir R. Peel, 147; Dolly's Brae collision, 29; doorkeepers' fees, 74, 173; ecclesiastical commission, 28, 30, 173; expenditure of public money for education, 147; factories bill, 148; French ambassador's recall, 101; general board of health bill, 148; Greece, our relations with, 28, 52, 101, 124; inspection of coal mines, 148; Irish encumbered estates amendment act, 124, 125; landlord and tenant's bill, 148; parliamentary franchise, 123, 147, 148, 173; party processions, 51; poor law, 28, 30; its abuses, 75; Marlborough house, 172; marriages bill, 148; persecution of protestant members in Ireland, 174; pirates' head-money repeal bill, 74; railway audit bill, 28; registrarship of the prerogative court, Canterbury, 100; special pleadings, better regulation of, 74; Sunday labour in the post office, 125, 174; university reform, 100; universities, commission of enquiry, 124; prorogation, 174.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—debate on the address, and amendment, 30; abolition of the punishment of death, 152; affirmation bill, 78; African blockade, 56; agricultural distress, 35; abolition of attorney's certificate tax, 104, 152, 153, 154; Australian colonies bill, 34, 57, 77, 101, 104, 106, 176; steam communication with, 154; benefices in plurality bill, 104; British claims on Tuscany, 176; budget, 56; Cambridge annuity, 153, 177; colonial policy, Lord J. Russell's statement, 33; county courts extension, 36; county rates and expenditure, 34, 35; court of chancery, 127; charitable trusts, 154.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY—Army estimates, 55, 175; half-pay estimates, 175; Holyrood, 177; Marlborough house, 175; Cuffe-street savings bank, 177; new house of commons, 177; public education, 151; committees, judicial and diplomatic salaries, 58, 76, 78; Ceylon inquiry, 32, 33, 154, 178; state of the Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster, 58; compound householders' bill, 154; consolidated fund appropriation, 178; copyhold enfranchisement, 129, 152; county franchise amendment, 151; county courts extension, 75, 127; county rates, 129; death of Sir Robert Peel, 150; public memorial, 152; desabilities of the naval assistant surgeons, 74; despatches from British Guiana, 153; ecclesiastical commissions bill, 31, 102, 151, 154; ecclesiastical constitution for the Australian colonies, 105; education, Mr. Fox's bill for the promotion of secular, 36, 77, 126; exhalations from drains or graveyards, 178; expenditure, public, Mr. Cobden's motion on, 54; expenditure, national, Mr. Drummond's motion on, 55; extramural interments bill, 105; factories amendment act, 55, 126, 127; friendly societies bill, 128; Greece, our relations with, 31, 53, 106, 128, 148, 149, 150; park encroachments, 58; highways' management bill, 34, 56; Hungary, affairs of, 32; immigration of Africans into the West India colonies, 178; importation of foreign corn, 106; India, growth of cotton in, 127; railways, 127; Ionian Islands (Sir H. Ward's proceedings in), 178.

IRELAND—Abolition of the Irish viceroyalty, 106, 126, 127; chancery, 34; crime and outrage act continuance, 176, 177, 178; distressed union advances bill, 84, 101, 104; encumbered estates bill, 178; fisheries bill, 105; franchise extension, 52, 104, 105, 176; improvement of towns, 129; Kilrush union, state of, 54; landlords and tenants bill, 153, 176; landlords and tenants bill (No. 2.), 177, 178; medical charities, 154; poor law, 126, 154; juvenile offenders' bill, 78; larceny summary jurisdiction bill, 57, 77, 129; malt tax repeal, 151; Manchester rectory divisions bill, 105; marriage bill, 33, 36, 53, 106, 127, 152; mercantile marine bill, 78, 151; metropolitan interments, 78, 125, 126, 127; national land scheme, 53, 176; new house of commons, 101, 125, 126; oath of abjuration, 153; parliamentary voters, 36; public libraries and museums, 55, 75, 127; railway accidents, 129; recal of the French ambassador, 106; registrar's office in bankruptcy bill, 34; registrarship of the prerogative court, Canterbury, 102; motion for the repeal of the window tax, 75; advertisement duty, 105; taxes on knowledge, 76; duty on home-made spirits in bond, 127, 151; review of the sessions, 178; revision of government salaries, 103; Rothschild (Baron), case of, 154, 174, 175, 176, 177; royal academy receipts and expenditure, 58; sanitary condition of bakers, 105; savings banks amendment bill, 101, 178; school establishments bill, Scotland, 128; site of the exhibition, 150: social improvement of the labouring classes, 53; stamp duties bill, 67, 77, 177; sugar duties' amendment, 125; Sunday labour in the post office, 125, 126, 128, 152, 178; Sunday trading prevention bill, 154, 176; universities commission, 153; prorogation, 179.

EDITORIAL NOTES—On the abolition of intra-mural interments, 74, 121; Australian colonies bill, 98; chief justiceship, 71; civil list, 144, 168; death of Lord Jeffrey, 47; decline of England theory, 97, 217; education measures, 25, 26, 50; franchise extension, 51; French ambassador's recall, 116; Gorham and bishop of Exeter, 25, 49; Greek blockade, 45, 68, 121; Baron Haynau's reception, 193; the laureateship, 263; law of divorce, 173; legislation for Ireland, 99, 122, 146, 170; oaths, abjuration, 168; O'Connor's land bubble, 26, 196; Sir Robert Peel, 145; position of literature in England, 123; Puseyite secessions, 193, 244; reduction of government salaries, 98; reform of the establishment, 244, 245; Roman Catholic aggressions, Piedmont, 170; Thurles, 171, 193; cardinal Wiseman and the new hierarchy, 241; Sunday post, 121; university commission, 118, 142, 167, 214, 239.

Acts of Parliament, Provisions of recent—county courts extension, 231; friendly societies, 204; metropolitan interments, 186; pluralities amendment, 232; new stamp act, 231.

Addiscombe, 274.

Albert, Prince, distribution of prizes by, 274.

Anniversary of Twelfth July, at Belfast, 159.

Association for improving the social moral religion of labourers, at Windsor, 256.

Ball, to the inmates of St. Luke's asylum, 232.

Bread Riots at Limerick, 37.

Britannia Bridge opened, 65.

British Association for the advancement of science, annual meeting, 186.

Canal Locks superseded, 215.

Carshalton School investigations, 232; correspondence, 257.

Cash Credits, discussion on the adoption of the Scotch system, 14.

Cattle-show of Smithfield club, 269.

Charity, munificent, of Miss Howard, 231.

Coldstream Guards banquet, 114.

Colonisation and Emigration—Canterbury association, 88, 188; Mrs. Chisholm's family group scheme, 18, 116, 140, 165, 235; emigration to Natal, 88; female emigration, Mr. Sidney Herbert's, 88, 116, 140, 188, 235, 260; Irish emigration to America, 89, 235, 260.

Common Law commissioners' labours, 256.

Conciliation Hall, closing of, 156.

Cotton, Manchester chamber of commerce enquiry in India, 256.

Dolly's Brae affair, memorial of the Ulster Roman Catholics, 6; the debate on, 29.

Drawing Rooms of the season, 138.

EDUCATION—British and Foreign school society, annual examination, 137; college of preceptors' half-yearly meeting, 14; common council of London, educational grants, 231; evening classes for young men, annual report, 138; donation of Prince Albert, 231; experimental school for juvenile delinquents at Aberdeen, 230; Fox's education bill, public agitation of, 84; Lancashire public schools' association conference at Manchester, 255; meeting at Willis's rooms against the government measures, 43; opening of the free grammar school, Richmond, 231; public library for the working classes established at Manchester, 84; Queen's College, Ireland, denounced by archbishop Slattery, 37; papal condemnation, 130; royal sanction of the statutes, 197; suspension of M. de Vericour, 266; ragged schools' union, 113; annual meeting of the Grotto Passage, 138; singing classes introduced in the army, 256; Welsh language, meeting to promote secular instruction in, 137.

Elections—Cambridge university, 197, 220; Hereford, 220; Lambeth, 187; Mayo, 187; Montgomeryshire, 220; Poole, 197; Southampton, 162; Tamworth, 162.

Engine Drivers' Strike, Eastern Counties railway, 179.
Excursions, cheap Sunday, by railway, 204.
Exhibition of the works of all nations—the royal commission, 14; Mansion House meeting, 15; subscriptions, 65; Mansion House banquet to the mayors, 65; return banquet at York, 232; movements in France, 85; Mr. Paxton's design, 157; prizes offered by the Goldsmiths' company, 256.
Factories, return relative to, 274.
Farmers' association for the reduction of tradesmen's profits, 66.
Financial and parliament reform association meeting at Manchester, 37; annual meeting in London, 220; speech of Mr. Cobden at Aylesbury, 5.
Fishmongers' dinner, speech of Lord Brougham, 180.
Fitzwilliam, Earl, reduction of rents by, 274.
Flower show of the Horticultural Society, Chiswick, 136.
Freehold land society's operations, 197.
Hartley bequest to Southampton, 157.
Holyhead, progress of new harbours at, 215.
Income tax, sums paid by railway companies, 203.
Intramural interments, public meetings against, 64.
Irish encumbered estates act, working of, 130, 179, 221.
Islington, proposed new park for, 85.
Labour, general organisation of, 64.
Law amendment society's conference with Mr. Dudley Field, 257.
Lord Mayor's day, new pageantry of, 242.
Lunacy, report of commissioners, 274.
Mansion House, juvenile entertainment at, on new year's eve, 16.
Meetings, Annual *Agricultural*—royal agricultural society, Exeter, 156; farmers' club, Burton-on-Trent, 257; Bury, 220; Durham, 220; Highland annual show, 186; Saffron Walden, 220; Waltham, 220; Westmoreland and Cumberland, 204; *Benevolent*—Artists' general benevolent Institution, 113; Asylum for Idiots, appeal of the directors, 232; annual elections for, 255; Domestic Servants' Benevolent Institution, 113; Establishment for Gentlewomen during Illness, 162; Female Servants' Home Society, 113; General Theatrical Fund, 66; Governesses' Benevolent Institution, 114; Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, 137; King's College Hospital, incorporation and endowment, 16; annual meeting, 65; meeting in aid of, 114; Royal Free Hospital, 137; Seamen's Hospital, 162; Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 231; Improving the Condition of the Labouring Classes, 136; Newsvenders' Benevolent Institution, 114; Royal Humane Society, 162; Royal Infirmary for Children, 113; Royal Literary Fund, 66; *Political, Social, and Religious*—abolition of the Irish vice-royalty, meeting against, in Dublin, 78; Aborigines protection society, 42; public meeting to Dr. Achilli, 59; meeting of the laity and clergy on the Gorham case at St. Martin's hall, 156; disorderly meeting at the Crown and Anchor on the metropolitan interments' bill, 114; national charter association, first metropolitan meeting, 6; national reform association conference, 78; meeting at Wymondham, 156; O'Connor's, Feargus, M.P., annual meeting with his constituents, 197; reform of colonial government society's annual dinner, 156. *Protectionist*—Bedford, 37; Brecon, 37; Crown and Anchor demonstration, 107; fatal affray at Dorchester, 40; meeting of the county Down, 5; great national meeting, Dublin, 5; great Marlow, Bucks, 4; Liverpool, 130; Northampton, 5; uproar on Penenden Heath, 5; riot at Reading, 4; Rutlandshire meetings, 37; Salisbury, 4; riot at Stafford, 4; Stepney meeting, 4; Waltham, 5, 220; withdrawal of lords Wharncliffe and Yarborough from the protectionist movement, 5.
Messmen, abolition of, in the royal navy, 257.
Ministerial law changes, 162, 233.
Mormon baptism, a fashionable, 139.
National association, 269.
Nepaulese embassy, 138.
November fifth, celebration of, in London, 248; Exeter, 249; Oxford commemoration, 159.
Papal letters, apostolic, of Sept. 29th, 241; Lord John Russell's letter on, 245; speech at Guildhall, 249; archbishop of Canterbury on, 245; dean of Bristol's speech, 246; public meetings on, court of common council, 247; St. Mary le Strand, 247; Bristol, Liverpool, York, 247; address to the queen from the Roman Catholics, 247; appeal of cardinal Wiseman, 247; address of Dr. Wareing, 241; burning, in effigy, of the new cardinal and bishops, 249; disturbance at St. Barnabas, 252; enthronement of Wiseman, papal bull, 266; addresses to the queen, 268; meetings, 269; Norfolk, duke of, letter, 269; resignation of Mr. Bennett, 268.
Paper duties, deputation to the premier on, 43.
Park, new, in Battersea-fields, 256; Islington, 85.
Patent law reform league, 256.
Peace congress at Frankfort, 212; peace society meeting at Wrexham, 256.
Penny savings banks, 137.
Personal—Queen, her majesty the, new year's gift, 16; Windsor dramatic performances, 44; Easter rustic sports at Windsor, 85; birth of Prince Arthur, 114; baptism, 138; birthday fête of Prince Alfred, 186; cowardly assault of Robert Pate, 133; visit to Ostend, 186; to Castle Howard, Edinburgh, and Balmoral, 205.
Albert, H.R.H. Prince, present to the boys of Eton college, 67; letter on the university commission, 138; speech at the Mansion House, 65; at York, 232.
Bright, Mr., M.P., speech at Manchester, advocating the claims of Ireland, 3.
Brougham's, lord, philosophical recreations at Cannes, 16; speech at the Fishmongers' dinner, 180; border fray, 300.
Cambridge, death of the duke of, 163.
Clarendon's, lord, tour through the north of Ireland, 196; reply to the tenant-right deputation, 220.
Cobden's, Mr., M.P., speech on financial reform, at Aylesbury, 5; on the Russian loan, 6.
Cottenham's, lord, resignation of the chancellorship, 114; elevation to the peerage, 139.
Count de Paris, first communion of, 162.
Edwards, major, welcomed at Shrewsbury, 67; honours awarded to, 138, 162.
Franklin, sir John, tidings of, from the Pacific, 17; arrangement for further search of, 44; rewards for his discovery, 67; captain Austen's expedition, 187; return of the North Star and Prince Albert, 233.
Gomm, sir W., appointed commander-in-chief in India, 187.
Graham's, lieut., release, 85.
Gough's, lord, return from India, 67; banquets to, 67, 85; presentation of the freedom of the city of London, 138; Edinburgh, 186; Inverness, 233; degree of D.C.L., Oxford, 138.
Haynau's, general, reception at Barclay's brewery, 206.
Hudson's, Mr., arrangements with the York, Newcastle, and Berwick railway company, 16; justification of his transactions, 16.
Louis Philippe's death, 186; funeral, 205.
Obituary—Balzac, 187; Lisle Bowles, 86; duke of Cambridge, 163; Madame Dulcken, 86; Margaret Fuller, 190; Gay Lussac, 114; Mr. R. Gilfillan, 275; Mrs. Glover, 163; lord Jeffrey, 44, 47; Col. Johnson, 275; Lieut. Lorimer, 275; Gen. Sir W. Lumley, 275; Mrs. Bell Martin, 276; lord Nugent, 258; duke of Palmella, 233; Admiral Payne, 276; sir Robert Peel, 162; Miss Jane Porter, 114; sir Launcelot Shadwell, 187; sir M. A. Shee, 187; Smith of Deanston, 139, Madame Tussaud, 86; lieut. Waghorn, 17; sir W. Whymper, 275; Wordsworth, 86; Wyatt, 139.
Palmerston, lord, testimonial to, 139; banquet at the reform club, 162.
Peel, sir Robert, death of, 162-3; posthumous memoirs, 186; will, 206.
Rogers, Mr. Samuel, accident to, 131.
Russell's, lord John, visit to Manchester, 85; colonial speech, 33; letter to the bishop of Durham, 245; speech at Guildhall, 249.
Sellon's, Miss, correspondence with lord Campbell, 82.
Tait's, Dr., farewell to Rugby school, 85.
Tennyson's, Mr., appointment to the Laureateship, 262.
Waghorn, Mrs., pension to, 139.
Wilde's, sir T., elevation to the chancellorship, 162.
Wiseman, Dr. Nicholas, elected cardinal, 187; appointment, 237; appeal to the people of England, 247; burnt in effigy, 249.
Petition, gross abuse at Liverpool of the right of, 155.
Police, rural, 274.
Prisons, metropolitan, new classification of offenders in, 221.
Rent, re-arrangement of, on the duke of Portland's estates, 43; marquess of Hertford's, 43.
Returns, Reports, &c.—of the board of trade, ending Dec. 5th, 1849, 15; Aug. 15th, 1850, 203; increase of exports in 1849, 43; British Museum commission of enquiry, 66; convict system, 130; criminal returns for 1849, 156; decrease of crime in Galway circuit, 66; Gloucester and Somerset, 232; increase in Hereford, 7; Surrey, 228; dangers of the channel navigation, 258; financial returns of the united kingdom for 1849, 16; number and revenue of enrolled friendly societies, 186; poor law board returns, July, 1850, 185; post office returns, 1849, 185; railway commissioners' return, 1849, 185; registrar ½ general — births, deaths, marriages, first quarter, 113, second, 184, third, 255; revenue returns to Oct. 15, 221; savings banks and friendly societies, 130; sinecure benefices, 221; specie and bullion imported from the gold countries in 1849, 15; trade and navigation returns for Feb. 1850, 66; trials for murder by poison, 1839-49, 180; summaries of the state of trade and industry of the united kingdom in 1849, 15; statistics of the London fire brigade, 1849, 43; of the progress of Glasgow, 186; omnibus statistics of London, 230.
Railway companies monopoly, agitation against, 65.
Repeal association, 78.
Re-union of employers and work-people at Motham, 15.
Roman catholic converts, 206; synod of Irish prelates at Thurles, 179; the address to the catholics of Ireland, 197.
Rothschild, baron, meeting of the supporters of, 157.
Russian loan, Mr. Cobden's speech on, 6.
St. Barnabas, Pimlico, consecration of, 137; decoration, 252.
St. Paul's, proposed removing of the railings of, 65.
Sanitary—Baths and washhouses, extension of, in Westminster, 14; cholera nursery, St. Clement's Danes, 85; Metropolitan sanitary association, public meeting at Freemasons' hall, 43; metropolitan drainage question, 137; scheme of Mr. Frank Forster, 186; Serpentine, deputation to government on purifying, 137; water supply of London, Mr. Napier's report, 257.
Sea serpent, the, 206.
Smithfield market, common council's discussion on, 156.
Steam communication with Australia, meeting to promote, 164.
Sunday cheap railway excursions, 204.
Sunday post-office labour, its reduction, 15; abolition, 137; meetings of news-proprietors, 137; deputations to government, 156; its renewal, 179, 203.
Tailoring trade, meeting of masters to consider the "sweating system," 65; public meeting of workmen in Exeter Hall, 15.

Telegraph, projected submarine electric, between France and England, 15; progresses, 215, 232; across St. George's Channel, 231.
Temperance festival at the London tavern, 231.
Ten hours' act meetings to secure its integrity, 37, 64.
Tenant right agitation in Ireland, 59, 78, 130, 156; conference, 179, 197, 220; deputation to lord Clarendon, 220.
University commission, the, 118, 142, 214, 239; prince Albert's letter on, 138.
Vaccination, neglect of, 185.
Waterloo banquet, the, 139.
Wool league of Mr. Ferrand, 156.

LAW AND CRIME.

Action for loss of sight from gun cotton explosion, 60; for recovery of money paid on forged acceptances, 133.
Affiliation summons—a heartless case of seduction, 60.
Agapemone, revelations of the, 110.
Agrarian crimes in Ireland, 13, 80, 112, 198, 230.
American law respecting persons of colour, 108.
Apprentices absconding from their masters' service, 60.
Assault by a carpenter of the Strand theatre, 79; trial of Samuel Grieves Harvey for, 7; on a servant girl, the Rev. R. A. Johnston charged with, 251; trial of Mr. Kenealy for an assault on his son, 110; imprisonment of Mr. Leggett for an assault on a young lady, 39; a surgeon charged with striking his servant with a hot poker, 8; conviction of capt. Aaron Smith for an assault on a toll-gate keeper, 200; an editor and novel writer charged with, 224; on an innkeeper at Bath by Ogle Wallis, 229; on a customer by Mr. Watts, draper, 157; on his wife by a coach-painter, 18; of a policeman for unwarrantable interference, 225; assault on the Lowestoffe seamen by wreckers, 228; evidence given in a case of assault at Guildhall, 7; assault by Rev. Mr. Fenwick, 269.
Assumed name—complaint of Anna Maria Jones, 6.
Atrocity, act of, in the Isle of Man, 79.
Attempt to burn Parkhurst prison by the convicts, 199; attempting to drown, committal of J. E. Spooner for, 159; to drown her three children, committal of Elizabeth Huggins for, 40, sentence, 60; to murder her child, trial of May Hardwick for, 160; to murder his father, trial of Thomas King for, 61; to poison her father, committal of Louisa Hartley for, 80, acquittal, 111.
Bagerley, John, death-bed confession of, 39.
Bainbrigge v. Bainbrigge—validity of a will, 182.
Bankruptcy and Insolvency Courts—examination of Mr. John Bull, 184; W. Chittenden, 131; Mr. Delafield's certificate, 59, 111, 131; Lakeman and Co., commercial transactions of Louis Philippe, 253; Martin Luther Pritchard's accounts, 111; imprisonment and suspension for fraudulent concealment of property, 132, 252; application for capt. Talbot's discharge, 10; Mr. Alaric A. Watts' certificate, 182; fraudulent bankruptcy of Joseph William Williams, 9.
Barber's, W., application for the renewal of his attorney's certificate, 157.
Beer-shop open on Sunday morning, conviction for, 199.
Betting lists, magisterial proscription of, 80.
Bigamy, trial of Mary Fitzgerald for, 184; Elizabeth Gilday, 228; Benjamin Griffiths, 61; William Augustus Shean, 184; Sophia Winter, 159; William Bennison, for bigamy and murder, 184.
Bill transactions—lieut. Clements with Lewis Joel, 9; lieut. Walter Lockhart Scott with W. J. Ferris, 7; lieut. Baldwin with Humbert, 81.
Border fray of Lord Brougham, 200.
Bosjesman, outbreak of ferocity, 112.
Braintree church-rate case, judgment given, 9.
Breach of promise—Gibbs v. Adams, Maidstone, 62; Nicholson v. Turnbull, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 59.
Burglaries and house robberies—at Charlecote Lucy, 109; Mr. Cohen's, jeweller, Newcastle, 249; at Wickham, St. Paul's, Essex, 111; of a watchmaker at Halifax, 223; attempted burglary at Mr. Marston's, gold-beater, Birmingham, 225; intrepid repulse by a servant girl at Congleton, 157; curious discovery of, at Llanwaris, 59; attempted burglary at Mr. Holford's, Regent's park, 227; committal of the thieves, 250, sentence, 269; burglary and murder at the Rev. Mr. Hollest's, Frimley, 222; in Regent's-park, in Mr. Marshall's house, 270.
Cabman's trick, a new, 249.
Calcraft, the hangman, summoned for refusing to support his mother, 61.
Cauliflower, throwing, on the Victoria theatre stage, 199.
Chloroform, charge of administering, with criminal intent, 109; rape effected by, 59; robberies, 38.
Combinations of workmen, 272.
Conspiring to cheat, conviction for, 158.
Credulity, extraordinary case at Islington, 40.
Crime, juvenile adepts in, 110, 111, 183; punished in perpetration at Hove, 108; Derby, 229.
Criminal information against the Quarterly Review, 109.
Cruelty to a workhouse child, 62, 112, 181.
Cutting and wounding, trial of A. Hicks for, 158.
Defamation used as a defence, 109.
Disturbance at St. Barnabas church, 252.
Divorce bills—rev. E. J. Ashby's, 132; lieut-col. Cautley, 111; Mr. Cobbe, 82; Hall, 181; earl of Lincoln, 130; reversal of judgment, Paterson v. Paterson, 180; King v. King, 270.
Domestic cruelty, Mr. and Mrs. Sloane, 271.
Electric telegraph company charged with favouritism, 109.
Elopement extraordinary, 183.
Emigration candidates, 113.
Endangering the lives of nine persons, conviction of the captain of a Richmond steamer for, 199.
Evictions in Ireland, 160, 198.
Evidence given in a case of assault at Guildhall, 37.
Execution of Elias Lucas and Mary Reeder, 80.
False character, conviction of a servant for using, 252.
False and malicious statements, dismissal of a policeman for, 251.
Felony, an intended, discovered by a cat, 201.
Firing a wheat stack, a false accusation of, 183; incendiary agricultural fires, 226; trial of Mary Savill for firing a stack of oats, 60.
Flogging, a magisterial advocate of, 110.
Forgery of Admiralty certificates, trial of W. Smith and C. Niblett for, 60; on the Austrian bank, 199; altering a marriage register, 60; of acceptances, Elizabeth Ann Chambers, 131; Lewis Joel, 9; Augustus Styles, 199; a servant's letter of recommendation, 252; W. Threlfall, 270.
Fraudulent use of Alderman Farebrother's name, 8; obtaining money under false pretences, 62, 82; feigned death of a child, 108; begging imposture, 112; begging letters to Prince Albert, 158; to the Duchess of Orleans, 199; begging in shops, 224; obtaining letters by fraud from the post office, Leeds, 250.
Gamekeeper, two men shot at by a, county court trial, 81.
Gorham v. Bishop of Exeter, decision of the judicial committee of the Privy Council, 60; arguments in the Queen's Bench and Arches' Court, 82; public meetings, 82; appeal to the Court of Common Pleas, 108; Court of Exchequer, 131, 157; protest tendered to the Arches' Court, 160; formal admission of Mr. Gorham, 182.
Highwaymen, attack by, in Wales, on Mr Apperly, 38.
Ignorance, a deplorable case of, 7.
Ill conduct to his son, Mr. J. Waddington charged with, 62.
Ill usage of scholars, fine on the rev. H. Meere, grammar school, Rochester, 62; on a national schoolmaster, Paddington, 10; on a schoolmaster, Withiel, Cornwall, 39.
Injunction against the site of the exhibition refused, 3, 160.
Inquest on Martha Joachim, an eccentric lady, Mary-le-bone, 10; Mary Carpenter, Southwark, 80; on two children found drowned at Exeter, 38.
Insanity, from religious fanaticism, 109.
Insurance policy, refusal of the Albion company to pay, 158.
Irish parochial mode of getting rid of their poor, 133.
Labour, its lowest price and results, 80.
Libel actions for Mr. F. O'Connor, M. P. v. the Nottingham Journal, 39; Don Pacifico v. the Morning Herald, 253; Count de Thomar v. the Morning Post, 8; Miss Sellon v. the Plymouth Journal, 108; Smith v. Cook, 271.
Life in London, a scene from, 8.
Litigation, the spirit of, 159.
Loitering at a railway terminus, charge of, 201.
Lunacy case of Mr. Pulteney W. Mein, 224; Commission on Mr. A. H. M. Tollemache, 226.
Manslaughter of a child, verdict against Captain Bushe, 200; of an Irish labourer, against police sergeant Bushell, 225; of her husband, trial of Jane Keitland for, 80; of Elizabeth Biggs, trial of, the Southampton relieving officer for, 59; of a child, trial of the Vauxhall bridge toll-man for, 201.
Marital rights, refusal, of, 183.
Marriage registration, trial for a false, 133.
Medical students, disgraceful conduct of, 131.
Misery, a tale of, 79.
Mock agency office swindles, 108, 110, 132.
Mummy of a child discovered, 130.
Murders—agrarian, in Ireland, Tipperary, 198, 230; Edward Hurley, Ballinahinch, 13; Mauleverer, land agent, 112; murder of a child at Gravesend, by her aunt, 183; a death-bed confession of, 39; discovery of a murder at Frome, 79; an old murder at Skipton, 130; a double murder near Edinburgh by a lunatic, 61; murder of John Ellis, on board ship, New Zealand, 198; murder by poison of Mrs. Page, Stow, by her servant, 250; murder of his son by a labourer, 131; supposed murder of a child, 130; murder and outrage at Leeds, by Irish emigrants, 251; murder and suicide of Dr. Creighton, Ballinagh, 200; murder and suicide of Alexander and Mrs. Novelli, at Manchester, 9; murder and suicide near Halifax, 61; committal of W. Henison for poisoning his wife, 81; conviction for bigamy and murder, 183; committal of Thomas Drury for the murder of Jael Denny, 227; of two Irishmen for the murder of a woman near Newport, 79; their conviction, 182; of John Lambourn for the murder of his wife, 225; of A. Moir, baker, for beating his wife to death, 62; conviction, 110; trial of John Ager, for murder, 160; by stabbing from jealousy of the Birds for the murder of Mary Ann Parsons, 62; second trial, 181; by starvation, Elizabeth Bubb, of Maria Hood, 183; by poison, W. Chadwick, of S. Turncliffe, 180; by poison, Hannah Curtis, of her husband, 183; Thomas Denny, of his child, by stabbing, 79; Sarah Drake, of her bastard son, by strangling, 8; Patrick Forbes, for the murder of his wife, 181; Andrew Forrest, of a gamekeeper by shooting, 7; A. Levy, of his wife, by stabbing, 80; William Ross, of his wife by poison, 180; Thomas Waters, attempt to murder his wife, 270; murder in France, 272.
Neglect of poor law officers, death from hunger and starvation through, 224; death of a tailor's apprentice from neglect, 228.

Omnibus law, an exposition of, 10.
Orion, trials of the captain and mates of, for neglect of duty, 198.
Pate, Robert, assault by, on her Majesty, 133; trial, 158, 159.
Pawning shirts, conviction of Rosina Herbert for, 226.
Penny theatres, morale of, 111.
Perjury by Mary Ann Doe, 270.
Picking pockets, an affecting case, 82; a juvenile pickpocket, 224; gang of pickpockets at Newmarket fair, 353.
Provisional committee men, non-liability of, 184.
Railway companies, irresponsibility of, for the acts of their servants, 109; caution to railway travellers, 198.
Rapes effected by chloroform, 59.
Receiving stolen plate, charge against Mr. H. Sirrel, 225.
Refusing to maintain his parents, a tradesman summoned for, 226.
Refusing to move on, conviction of street musicians for, 200.
Rents, attempted recovery of, at Snigs End, 198.
Revolt in the Barham union workhouse, 12.
Robbery and attempted murder of Mr. Cureton, 221; impudent robbery at Clerkenwell, 10; of Mr. F. H. Jewitt, by chloroform, 35; of Mr. Barnet Lea, 38; an incorrigible young thief, 222; robbery in the Strand, 272.
Sanitary condition of a merchantman, death from, 221.
Savings' banks defalcations, St. Helen's, 40; Scarborough, 41; Market Weighton, 111.
Seamen's wages, judgments given in claims for, 39, 199.
Seditious language, arrest for, 157.
Seduction, case of, 60, 109.
Sheep stealing by two young women at Croydon, 7, 38.
Shooting at his sweetheart, trial of John Humble for, 79.
Shoplifting, respectable, 131.
Slander, actions for, Barry v. Reid, 157; Nolan v. Pettigrew, 63.
Smithfield cruelty, illustrations of, 81.
Stabbing—a policeman, trial of Dr. Blackman for, 8; a child charged with stabbing, 160.
Stealing—broccoli, a frivolous case, 132; in a clothes market, tactics of the Petticoat-lane thieves, 225; a hardened offender in, 132; stealing a penny, 199; rabbit skins, by a policeman, 38; silk, committal for, 226; a draper charged with stealing silk, 250; a disagreeable short imprisonment for, 132; committal of Walter Watts, for defrauding the Globe Office, 80; conviction, 110, 133; his sentence and suicide, 159.
Strangulation, robbery by, 272.
Suicide—of Col. Craigie, by cutting his throat, 132; of Mr. Pennington, with a pistol, 251; of a girl from seduction, 225; from a love phrenzy, 122; attempted suicide by an unfortunate female, 62; deliberate suicide of a child by drowning, 133; of E. F. Hunt, by drowning, at Bath, 38; of Henry Jackson, by drowning, 40; of H. F. Stephan, from the Duke of York's Column, 111; of Elizabeth Rees, by hanging, 180; of a publican at Woolwich, by hanging, 60; suicide and attempt at murder at Yarmouth, 131; suicide by poison of Mr. E. Dundas Perceval, 80; of Mr. Robert Rouse by poison, 14; of Mr. W. Symes in a cab by poison, 250; of Mr. J. J. Winstanly by poison, 14; of Robert Dundas Jones, by poison, 134; of Robert Kemp, on the South Western railway, 131; of John Walker, by poison and razor wounds, 41; of Mary Ann Weed, by drowning, 11; of a servant girl from Blackfriars bridge, 251; from Southwark bridge, 133; suicide and murder from insanity in the United States, 161; by Mr. Spence, the barrister, 272.
Summary punishments, operation of, 108.
Superb, committal of the captain and mate for neglect of duty, 222.
Swindle, an ingenious, 8.
Threatening violence, imprisonment for, 131.
Throwing a bottle from a railway carriage, arrest for, 201; throwing his wife out of a window, trial of D. Donovan for, 159.
Ticket shops, Oxford-street, caution to the public, 199.
Wreckers, assault of, on the Lowestoffe steamer, 228.

ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

Aerostation, fatal accident from, 113, 202.
Blows at a protectionist fray, death from, 40.
Chloroform, use of, 136, 161.
Crushed to death, 134, 136.
Cut to pieces by a brick-making machine, 230.
Christmas tree, accident from, 13.
Delirium tremens, death from, 14.
Detonating powder, fatal explosion of, 112.
Drinking spirits to excess, death from, 229.
Drowning, loss of four lives at Bristol, 229; two children at Wetwang, 203; four persons at Devonport, 42; schoolmaster and pupil at Hampstead ponds, 134; accidental drowning of the judge of the county court, Liverpool, 64; Miss Stoner overtaken by the tide, 161; of a policeman in pursuit of a thief, 12; in the Serpentine, 12, 134, 136; run down by a steamer, 160; rescue of two children by a national guard, 202; a narrow escape from drowning, 134.
Explosions of engine boilers, 273.
Extraction of a pin, death from, 83.
Fall of a cotton factory, Stockport, 184; of the roof, Bricklayers' Arms station, 184; death from a fall at Hastings castle, 202; from falling from a dog cart, 229; Miss Seymour, from a fall from horseback, 134; Miss Craven, from a fall from Durdham Down cliffs, 64; of a servant girl from a window-sill, 134; of a painter, from a water-spout, 42; death from falling into a canal lock, 13; into an old coal pit, 38; out of a railway carriage, 229; under a bathing machine, 135; under an iron roller, 113; under a timber waggon, 113; from a fall whilst performing feats of tumbling, 208.
Fire arms, death from incautious use of, 12, 134, 161.
Fire-damp, colliery explosions, loss of nineteen lives at Airdrie, 161; three at Coed Poeth, 229; thirteen at Haydock, 63; nine at Haydock, 254; twenty-six at Houghton, 254; five at Marsden, 83; two at Singing Clough, 254; thirteen at little Usworth, Washington, 134.
Fires—St. Anne's, Limehouse, 64; village of Ashwell, Herts, 41; Mr. Bennington's, Bermondsey, 230; Buchanan house, Loch Lomond, 14; Clay-hill hall, Enfield, 42; chemical light factory, Finsbury, 254; incendiary, at Girton, Cambridge, 14; at Gravesend, 184; a second, 203; fatal at the workhouse hospital, Killarney, 13; at M'Culloch and Co's., Bishopsgate-street, 42; in Mark-lane, 203; Mulholland flax mills, Belfast, 41; model prison, Parkhurst, 184; Phœnix-street, Soho, 135; Southwark-bridge-road, 229; Messrs. Westhead's warehouses, Manchester, 63; narrow escape of Wyndham club house, 112; destruction of a timber-yard and India-rubber manufactory, Westminster-road, 41; death of Miss Paul, Highgrove, from taking fire, 63.
Firework factory, explosion, Spitalfields, 202.
Foul-air, death from suffocation in a brewery, 135.
Gale's (lieut.) landing in his balloon, at Dieppe, 161; shocking death near Bordeaux, 202.
Gunpowder explosions, at the Faversham powder mills, 230; Lostwithiel powder-works, 112; Norris castle, Isle of Wight, 41; Curtis and Harvey's powder mills, Hounslow, 63.
Hunger and exhaustion, death from, 63; destitution, 12; starvation, 11, 159; want and exposure to cold, 13.
Hydrophobia, case of, near Edinburgh, 253.
Icebergs, destruction of shipping from, 133.
Lion queen killed by a tiger, at Chatham, 13.
Lion, a man injured by, in Wombwell's menagerie, 254.
Mysterious death at Clapham, 112.
Naphtha explosions, at Tottenham-court-road, 14; distillery, Finsbury, 42; at New Wortley, 63; Leeds, 230; Roman Catholic school, Seacombe, 254.
Peel, capt., accident to, 134.
Poisoning, accidental, death of a family from, 63.
Railway accidents, Eastern Counties, 83, 202, 203; East Lancashire, 11, 202; Eastern Union, 229; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 42, 254; Midland Counties, 113; North Western, 202; South Western, 83, 161, 202, 230; Scottish Central, 184; West Yorkshire, 41; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 40, 118; York and Scarborough, 160; collisions at Stratford, Leeds, and Selby, 273.
Shipwrecks, royal Adelaide, 82; Arcturus, 230; Ariadne, Indiaman, 229; Aurora, 230; Prince Arthur, steamer, 184; Bridgetown, emigrant ship, 202; Catherine Charlotte, 12; Richard Dart, transport, 10; Edmond, emigrant ship, 255; Emma, 83; Mary Florence, 228; Floridian Helen, from a collision, 41; Howard, 83; Indian, east indiaman, 201; Juffrow Jantze, 229; L. Z., from New York, 42; L'Aigle, French war brig, 160; Lincoln, struck with lightning, 83; Manchester, indiaman, 229; Mary, 11; Nereid, indiaman, 229; Orion, steamer, 135; trial of the master and mate, 198; emperor of Russia's steam yacht, Peterhoff, 253; Polka, steamer, 203; Superb, steamer, 203; committal of the master and mate, 222; Providence, 230; remarkable shipwreck of the Star, 134; Sulimary, Indiaman, 160; Teresa Jane, 83; William Rushton, run down by the Minerva steamer, 184; collision and loss of life on lake Erie, 113; return of shipwrecked emigrants, 112.
Snow storm, death of Rachel Riach in, 13.
Sontag's, Madame, escape from a snow-drift, 11.
Steam-boat explosion, Red Rover, Bristol, 161.
Storm, the, of Feb. 5, 6, 41; Oct. 6, 7, 229; destructive storm at Dublin, 84; thunder storm, 161.
Sudden death, from affection of the heart, of James Dodsley Tawney, 7; of the rev. Spencer Thornton, 13; from a fit, of Mr. Johnstone, scene-painter, 113.
Tide, unusual height of, in the Thames, 14.
Waterspout in the Bristol channel, 83.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

Africa—proceedings of the Cape Anti-convict Association, 18, 88; affair with pirates in the river Schia, 46; discovery of a great inland lake, 68; Jewish martyrdom in Morocco, 70; Natal, 88; resignation of the popular members at the Cape, 259; improvements of the overland route, 92; cholera in Egypt, 188; Aleppo, 278.
Australia—female emigration movements, 18, 19; arrival of Smith O'Brien, &c., 68, 88, 188; founding of an university, 87; destruction of the New Caledonian settlements, 115; coal fields, Port Philip, 188; financial returns, 188; Dr. Lang's agitation, 208, 234, 277; Australian mining company, 234; measures of the Sydney council, 260; hazardous expedition of the lieut.-governor of New Zealand, 260; public meeting at Sydney, 276; Smith O'Brien's attempt to escape, 277.
Austria—the families of the Hungarian leaders, 21; snow storm at Weiselbergh, 46; calamity at Hergott, 237.
Belgium, disastrous inundations in, 190; death of the queen, 236.
British America—dismissal of annexation magistrates, 18; electioneering struggle, 45; fire at Montreal, 208; at Fredericton, 259.
Canada—removal of seat of government, 276; temperance meeting, riot at, 276.
China—destruction of a pirate fleet at

Hoo-nong, 18; death of the emperor, 118; exports from Canton, 188; mortality at Hong Kong, 234; piratical mutiny at Hong Kong, 259.
Costa-Rica, progress of the South American state of, 214.
Denmark—war with Schleswig-Holstein, 119, 212, 237; Morganatic marriage of the king, 212.
France—absolutist attempts of the president, 20, 189, 209; debate on public instruction, 20; disastrous fall of snow, 20; wholesale poisoning, 20, 21; popular disturbances, 45, 68; return of socialist candidates in Paris, 68; expulsion of vagrants from Paris, 89; president insulted, 90; calamity at Angers, 90; arrest of a notorious murderer, 91; stringent measures against the press, 117, 165; recall of the French ambassador from England, 117; new electoral law, 140; increase of the president's salary, 141; his journey through the provinces, 189, 209; naval review, Cherbourg, 210; feud with general Changarnier, 236; legitimist congress, Wiesbaden, 189; legitimist split, 211; president's message, 261; anniversary of president's election, 277; proceedings in the assembly, 277.
Germany, 21; new Prussian constitution, 46; German league, 69; Erfurt parliament, 70, 117; attempt on the king of Prussia's life, 117; Frankfort congress, 189; speech of the king of Prussia on German unity, 211; flight of the elector of Hesse Cassel, 211, 237; treaty with Denmark, 211; the peace congress at Frankfort, 212; slaughter of Circassian volunteers at Posen, 238; opening of the Prussian chambers, speech of the king, 261; convention of Olmutz, and conferences at Dresden, 277.
Greece, blockade of, by admiral Parker, 46; cessation, 70; adjustment of terms, 118.
India—adventures of Drs. Campbell and Hosken on the Thibet frontier, 18; general order of sir C. Napier, 44; mutiny of a native regiment, 67, 87; skirmishing in the Kohat hills, 86; in Oude, 140, 234; a suttee, 140; powder explosion at Benares, 164; the koh-i-noor diamond, 164; resignation of sir C. Napier, 187; suicide of col. King, 207; revolt of Sikh prisoners, 208.
Italy—Naples, 46, 142; Piedmont, 189, 238; Rome, prevalence of murder in, 46; return of pope Pius IX., 91, 117; creation of cardinals, 237; Tuscany, 238; Sardinia, 278; Spain, 278.
Netherlands—opening of the states-general, 237.
Persia, conspiracy in, 142.
Portugal—opening of the Cortes, 21; debates, 46; claims of America, 166.
Russia—recent conspiracy in, 21.
Sandwich Islands, 238.
Spain—ministerial crisis, 69; diplomatic relations with England renewed, 91; palace intrigues, 117; bull fight, 141; queen's accouchement, 166; elections for the Cortes, 212; its opening, 262.
Sweden—conflagration at Drottingholm, 21.
Turkey, renewed diplomatic relations with Russia, 21, 70; intense cold, 70; destruction of the flag ship, 262; christian massacre, Aleppo, 262.
United States—president's message, 22; Hungarian refugees, 22; rush for California, 22, 142; slavery question, 46, 70, 118; trial of professor Webster, 92; his confession, 166; execution, 213; death of Mr. Calhoun, 92; stoppage of cotton mills, 118; buccaneering excursion to Cuba, 142; death of general Taylor, 166; conflagration at San Francisco, 166; the compromise bill, 190; tailors riot, New York, 191; the new administration, 190; passing of the fugitive slave bill, 213, 238, 263; Jenny Lind mania, 213, 238; state of the golden diggings, 213, 238; president's message, 278.
West Indies—financial measures of the Jamaica house of assembly, 18; anti-slavery meetings, Barbados, 18; piracy at St. Thomas, 87; tornado in the Bahamas, 87; coolie emigration, 188; cotton culture, 208, 234; cholera, 259; further accounts of cholera, 276.

LITERATURE AND ART.

Arts, Society of, prizes offered for 1851, 215.
Books—briefly noticed. Alton Locke, 191; Amari's Sicilian Vespers, 263; Baxter's Southern and Central Europe, 47; Baroness von Beck's Adventures in Hungary, 263; Carlyle's Latter-Day Pamphlets, 47; Cathcart's Russian and German Campaigns, 94; Charles V., Correspondence of, 167; Chesney's Expedition to the Euphrates, 119; Christianity in Ceylon, 279; Christmas with the Poets, 279; Cochrane's Young Italy, 167; Coleridge's Essays on his own Times, 94; Life of Andrew Combe, 94; Conversations with Goethe, 279; Miss Cooper's Rural Hours, 214; Correspondence of Sir Isaac Newton, 279; Mrs. Crowe's Light and Darkness, 239; Cumming's Hunter's Life in South Africa, 143; D'Israeli's Commentaries on the reign of Charles I., 279; Dixon's London Prisons, 23; Dynamical Theory of the Earth, 279; Dyce's edition of Kit Marlowe, 23; Evelyn's Diary and Correspondence, 47; Grote's History of Greece, 71; Head's Defenceless State of England, 263; Guizot's English Revolution, 47; Field's Life of Howard, 143; Knight Hunt's Fourth Estate, 94; Leigh Hunt's Auto-biography, 143; Mrs. Jameson's Legends of the Monastic Orders, 191; Kay's Social Condition and Education in England and Europe, 94; Kenrick's Egypt under the Pharaohs, 197; Kicklebury's on the Rhine, 279; Klapka's War in Hungary, 94; Knight's Life of Shakspere, 94; Laing's Social and Political State of the European People, 94; Latham's Varieties of Man, 191; Levi Leone on Commercial Law, 239; Lingard's History of England, 71; Lyrics of the Heart, 279; Mackay's Progress of the Intellect, 143; MacFarlane's Turkey and its Destiny, 47; Makamet of Harni, translation of, 263; Margoliouth's Pilgrimage, 239; Mazzini's Royalty and Republicanism in Italy, 239; Memoirs of Cardinal Pacca, 47; Merivale's Rome under the Empire, 93; The Moorland Cottage, 279; Mure's Language and Literature of Ancient Greece, 93; Newman's Phases of Faith, 119; Norman on the Pressure of Taxation, 71; Pamphlets on Papal Aggression, 279; Henry Rogers' Essays, 118; Sedgwick's University Studies, 191; Sydney Smith's Moral Philosophy, 94; Spectator—re-issue of the Coverly papers, 139; Strickland's Queens of Scotland, 243; Tales, by the Author of "Jane Eyre," 279; Bayard Taylor's El Dorado, 119; Ticknor's Spanish Literature, 23; Townshend's Modern State Trials, 118; Village Notary, 47; Wailly's Stella and Vanessa, 191; Robert Plumer Ward's Memoirs, 143; Wordsworth's Prelude, 167.
Music, Beethoven quartett society, 95; Eisteddfod, 215; grand national concerts, 239; Jenny Lind, concerts of, 143, 191; musical festival, Gloucester, 215; musical union, 95; Her Majesty's Italian Opera, 71, 95, 119, 143, 191; Royal Italian, 71, 95, 119, 143, 191; Philharmonic Society's concerts, 71, 95, 119, 143.
Nelson column, basreliefs, 94.
Nineveh, Mr. Layard's excavations at, 95, 139, 239.
Pictures, sale of the Barbarigi gallery, 191; of the Hague collection, 190, 191; opening of the British Institution, 143; of the gallery of the National Institution, 94; Royal Academy, 119; Society of Water Colours, 119; New Society of Water Colours, 94; removal of the Vernon gallery, 191; number of pictures imported in 1849, 94.
Planet, discovery of a new, 215.
Seaford, removal of cliffs at, 215.
Theatres, Adelphi, 95, 119, 263; Drury Lane, 95, 119; Haymarket, 71, 95, 119, 263; Lyceum, 95, 119, 263; Olympic, 71, 23, 47, 263; Princess's, 95, 239, 263; Sadler's Wells, 47, 263; Saint James's, 23, 95, 167; Strand, 71, 95, 119, 143; Surrey, 47; Mr. Macready's farewell performances, 263.

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THE THREE KINGDOMS.

THE NEW YEAR has opened with a discussion which would seem to exhibit the world getting suddenly too old to remember rightly its own age. Whether or not the first half of the century is completed, or must wait another year, has been the subject of this eager dispute; and it is not yet by any means settled. One set of disputants maintain that the year One is completed before it begins, the other would more reasonably suggest that it must begin before it is completed. But then, retorts the logical dealer in subtleties, there is a zero year before the absolute year can count, which explains the apparent discrepancy; just as there is a zero pound while the shillings that compose it are being counted, and not till the twentieth shilling is flung down does the pound absolute make its appearance. Whereto the practical man replies, that whether the year One is to be counted at the end or beginning of its months, is all the same to him; but that he clearly declines to count number Two till he has had the full value of it, and that no conceivable number of unsubstantial shillings could ever produce to his satisfaction any one substantial pound. Supposing a baby born on the first year of a century, he may have been clearly a nothing baby for nine months preceding; but would anybody therefore call him nine months old at his birth? The logician again responding not less learnedly, the question is left a profound puzzle, and as such must probably remain; but we are decidedly of opinion that for common-life purposes the practical view is the more convenient one, and that if we bargained to subscribe for fifty copies of *Household Words* we would by no means be content with forty-nine plus nothing.

Though the memory of the century is thus decrepit, however, let it not be supposed that it has not vigour of life notwithstanding. There is nothing so common now-a-days as all kinds of professed ailments in midst of the sturdiest evidences of health and strength. Nothing can equal the energy and vitality, for example, with which the protectionists have been proclaiming all over England the entire collapse and absolute decease of agricultural prosperity. In Worcester, Nottinghamshire, Edenbridge, Ross, Devonshire, York, Kent, Waltham, and Northampton; in Bucks, Leicester, Horsham, Ely, and Stafford; they have daily, within the past month, exhibited the activity and energy of a more than mortal despair. But it is plainly a case of Killing No Murder, and the public look on enjoying the joke, as much as ever they enjoyed the venerable farce of that name. No year has opened during the present century with more unequivocal indications on every side of extraordinary commercial prosperity. In spite of such adverse events as the war in India, the Danish blockade, and the cholera, trade has made unequalled progress during the year past, and the condition of the bulk of the people has been proportionately improved. Shipping, too, has increased, as a matter of course, with the increase of imports and exports; the building yards are at present as full as the mills and factories; and the first year of the repeal of the navigation laws sees apparently firmer than ever the wooden walls of Old England. Let the wooden heads take comfort, therefore; and listen, with what patience they may, to the admissions which Mr. Disraeli has again during the past month more than once emphatically repeated, as to the utter impossibility of a present or speedy restoration of protection. Is it not strange, by the way, that so clever a person as the protectionist orator cannot perceive, that in proportion as his own hopes of seeing protection restored have been declining (and less and less hopeful, from year to year, has his language gradually become), there must be a reason in the growing satisfaction of the people with the system that displaced it? Would it be possible to maintain free trade for a day beyond the time that the really preponderating interests of the country demanded a re-imposition of protection? The real truth is, that the instinct of the difficulty of returning to the old system possessed by all men out of top-boots and leathers, or in the least degree above the lowest range of the bucolic intellect, is substantially a confession of the abuse which free trade had thrown down. If the new arrangement were not just, or if the old one had not involved what was the reverse of just, change would not now be so difficult or distant as it is confessed by Mr. Disraeli and the most ardent protectionists to be. In a few more years, it is to be hoped, this instinct will ripen into the sensible resolve of not desiring to resume swaddling-clothes at all; in which case we shall have a manly effort to dispense altogether with petting and coddling, and, after the fashion of Mr. Cobden at his farm in Sussex, shall see rents reduced, game surrendered, land drained, trees cleared, fences moved, and, amidst all this, not only both farmers and labourers employed and contented, but landlords cheerful and hopeful. Mr. Cobden went the other day to Aylesbury, to give the farmers the benefit of that quite unprecedented strange agricultural experience; whereat the honest farmers at first began to hiss, then to laugh, and then to cheer. It is clear that even their's is not a case for despair. Even by them the signs of the times do not pass utterly disregarded; and such signs, adverse to their wishes, have lately been more than usually abundant. Protection has been within these few days defeated in what was supposed to be its metropolitan stronghold, among the weavers of Stepney; at a meeting invoked against "the present unfair and ruinous system of competition," backed by all the pretences most likely to gull the well-meaning but half-informed artisan, and presided over by the great guns of the "great central protection society itself." Against all these influences the working men stood firm; supported their own views; flung plentiful cold water over a notorious oratorical firebrand, Mr. Oastler; carried a series of sensible resolutions, to the effect that the best protection they desired to

have was the non-interference of Government with trade, and the removal of all remaining impediments to the free exercise of industry; and politely deposed the protectionist chairman.

It is to be regretted that this example of politeness, however, has not as yet told generally on the great body of the farmers. At Stafford, for instance, they enforced their differences of opinion with the loaded ends of heavy riding-whips on the skulls of a party of radical shoemakers, who had mustered somewhat strongly in the Town Hall. Indeed that sort of argument would appear, upon the whole, to have been the most powerful reasoning employed by the farmers as a body, during the late meetings. The consequence of its partial success at Stafford was its subsequent adoption, with various fortune, at Hinckley in Leicestershire, and at Reading, Croydon, and Worcester; for though both at Hinckley and in the latter city the top-boots and leathers underwent decisive rout, and at Croydon it was a drawn battle, at Reading they as clearly got uppermost, and indeed came off with quite a triumphant victory. Their newspapers complacently record it. To the spectators not engaged nothing whatever was audible, and nothing visible but a sea of hats bobbing up and down like chopping waves in a tide-way, fists whirling in the air, and incidental glimpses of hand to hand encounters in which bulky gentlemen in white top-coats "appeared to great advantage." To much more advantage, be it at least admitted, than the Lord Stanhopes, Mr. Newdegates, Lord Henry Bentincks, and others, supposed to be their betters, who, instead of gallantly whirling fists in the air, have been basely levelling vulgar imputations against Sir Robert Peel; accusing him of having taken up free trade for no higher motive than his own benefit, and reminding him that liars should have good memories. For the latter saying Lord Stanhope more particularly is responsible.

The apophthegm, vulgar, false, and misplaced in that case, is not without point and application to another incident of the month. Restless in his exile, the ex-railway monarch has made an attempt to emerge into the world once again; but a too manifestly indiscreet one. His memory seems painfully short. He should have waited quietly, used advantageously what he has not been obliged to regorge (and what could a hundred thousand pounds matter out of such ill-gotten heaps as his), kept his kitchen warm, and sunk all further allusions to reputation or character. With such props and supports he may still recommend himself as by far too useful an instrument to a large class of "society" to be left to rust quite out of fashion. But foolishly rejecting them, he now, forsooth, petitions the public for all sorts of consideration, on the ground of the excited period in which the equivocal transactions occurred, the multiplicity of concerns he had to superintend and direct, the brief opportunities he had for reflection, and the impossibility of giving sufficient attention to public duties and private matters—as if the public memory were as convenient as his own, or the world could have forgotten that the attention he had given out of his public duties to his private matters had been only too sufficient! Such pleas *ad misericordiam* might have been somewhat less ridiculous, if the result had been less exclusively in Mr. Hudson's own favour; but when a man, in the extreme of excitement, with horribly brief opportunities for reflection, and with concerns to superintend and direct which occupy all his energies, is nevertheless proved to have been continually filling his own pockets while he was emptying those of others, "the impossibility of his giving sufficient attention to public duties" can hardly be admitted to excuse his having somewhat over-attended to private ones. Mr. Hudson takes nothing by his motion. It was a blunder.

So proved, most unexpectedly (to return to the theme of the month which has been oftenest renewed and harped upon), the appeal of the protectionists to Ireland. One would have expected the Irish to cleave to the fortunes of protection, as in former days the country stood by James the Second, and other exploded things; but the genius of blundering itself could not discover any possible supply of its wants in the certain creation of a scarcity, and the attempted reaction has been generally a failure. Truly, the virtues of protection are so written on the face of Ireland that he who runs may read; and if success might have been counted upon anywhere for unreasonable opinions, certainly that was the place for it—that generous but unhappy land of delusions, that second enchanted island, so long under the spell of selfish enchanters. Yet, strange to say, we have to repeat that even here, where the cap and bells belong to reason, and wisdom is the national Tom o' Bedlam, our protectionist friends make little or no advance. They succeeded in Kilmainham and Dublin only by carefully shutting out the public. At Dunmanway, and in Cork, Cavan, and Donegal, free-trade resolutions were carried at the protectionist meetings; in the very pattern county of Down the protectionists were beaten on their own ground, at the meeting they had themselves summoned; and one of the speakers, an ardent repealer, sensibly explained in what way free-trade had benefited Ireland, by stimulating English manufactures and so giving English employment to numbers of starving Irish, without the least apparent notion that the argument told quite as forcibly against repeal as against protection. Thus, even while in a rational and sensible course, the country still keeps up its character; and when things go right, they go, as *Gonzalo* says, by contraries. At Wexford and Longford, as in Down, there were meetings to which protectionists were summoned, and free-traders came; and at Galway there suddenly rose such a storm of contending motions and resolutions, that the leader of the protectionists forgot to make any motion at all!

However, if common sense is arrived at thus nonsensically in Ireland, it is surprising, on the other hand, with what sensible and passionate earnestness nonsense is at the same time pursued. The movement against rent, for example, becomes daily more and more formidable, and threatens to assume the worst character of socialism. Being impracticable in its objects, its organisation is proportionately powerful. If it had been limited to the better guardianship and security of the tenant, in all to which his labour and sacrifices might justly entitle him, it would have been a practicable, obtainable, common-place thing, and nobody would have lifted up his finger for it. As it is, it will doubtless attract and occupy all the disengaged enthusiasm of the country, turn it into every kind of dangerous channel, and obstruct statesman-like exertion in every other sound or beneficial direction.

But as little in England as in Ireland is there lack of matter for either censure or scorn. We have heard too much lately of those disastrous cases which are so bitter a reproach to our civilization, where neglect and actual starvation are left to murder the wretched, while officers, appointed by law to arrest such instruments of murder, stare indifferently on. A miserable single woman, with her unborn child, dies of hunger and cold at Southampton; a married woman, poor and industrious but most unhappy, dies of absolute want and neglect in Manchester; while the parish authorities, in both populous civilized cities, are no less than actual parties, it may be said, to these horrible calamities. More horrible still is the certainty, however, that such cases, unseen, unheard of, silently suffered and undergone, are, in London, of even common occurrence. It

would nevertheless appear to be a doubtful mercy to clear our streets and garrets of distressed women by means of partial emigration subscriptions, with no attendant precaution against an immediate supply of still larger numbers to run the same course of wretchedness. The enormous preponderance of the female over the male population in London is attributable to those tempting opportunities of employment existing in a great city, which lure so many girls to London with utter inability to resist its snares, with the laxity of morals that is more or less the result of country breeding, and with no pleasing memory connected with the squalid homes they have left to aid in keeping them within the ways of virtue. Such remedies do but film the ulcerous place, leaving the more grievous malady to fester unseen. What has been the growth of the neglect of centuries cannot be removed by the activity of a few earnest months or years. The people must be educated, and their homes improved. More appalling even than the cases which reveal depths of bodily destitution, are those which now and then disclose the more startling depths of mental ignorance and neglect concealed beneath our hollow shows of civilisation.

On the proposed swearing at Guildhall of a crossing-sweeper lad of fourteen, to witness an assault, we had not many days ago one of these appalling revelations. The boy looked so amazed on taking "the Book," that the worthy Alderman was moved to question him on his moral condition; whereupon it appeared that he did not know what an oath was, that he did not know what a New Testament was, that he could not read, that he had never said his prayers, that he did not know what prayers were, that he did not know what God was, that though he had heard of the Devil he did not know him, and that in fact all he knew was how to sweep the crossing; while manifestly prominent among the things he did not know, was how to speak other than the truth. The latter was not the inference, however, of the worthy magistrate; he did not recognise the excellent soil, only barren because no seed had been sown there; but straightway, after lamenting over the deplorable ignorance of the unfortunate child, he rejected his evidence peremptorily as that of a creature who knew nothing whatever of the obligation to tell the truth. Now, admitting to its fullest extent the brutal and lamentable ignorance which knew nothing out of the world or in the world except to sweep the crossing, it is also clear that the ignorance extended equally to the arts of subterfuge, dissimulation, and false pretences; and that this boy's evidence was refused by the magistrate simply because he did not know how to feign that he did know. Against himself, or rather against society to which the shame belongs, he had borne true testimony; and therefore his testimony in regard to others was to be excluded. The magistrate is not to be blamed; the magisterial decision was strictly in accordance with the practice of English jurisprudence: but it is surely high time to fling down such ridiculous barriers of custom and prejudice, stumbling-blocks to truth as they must always be; and, taking whatever evidence is proffered, *quantum valeat*, leave the judge and jury to discover the precise amount of value.

Another, and very different kind of examination, going on almost concurrently in one of the superior courts (that of a witness in a trial for forgery), elicited a series of facts as little credible, and quite as disgraceful. Imagine a young gentleman, bearing her Majesty's commission, ordering diamond rings one day, and taking the diamonds out of their settings and exchanging them for money the next. Conceive the same creditor being paid (with, of course, enormous deduction), by what he had himself supplied not many days before. Imagine one creditor supplying the jewellery one month, by which another creditor was paid the next month. Fancy a grown young man, of three or four and twenty, gravely deposing, in a court of justice, that it was his habit to take rubies and diamonds out of their settings "partly to amuse himself by weighing them, and partly to see how they looked out of their settings," protesting at the same time, that of what became of the settings he knew nothing. The trial ended in a verdict of forgery; the victim forged upon being this ingenuous youth; and one cannot help marvelling much that the task of swindling such a gentleman should have involved anything so troublesome or dangerous as forgery. Mischief is too precious a thing to be wasted, as *Jonathan Wild* remarks; and never does forgery appear to have been so thrown away as upon Lieutenant Clements. It was only to ask and have. It was an ordinary thing for him to be satisfied with 250*l.* in exchange for a bill for 500*l.*; and while almost all his dealings were by means of jewellery, he gravely assured the Court, that he knew nothing whatever of its value. Moreover, his memory, under examination, never amounted to more than an "impression." The crossing-sweeper boy knew everything of what he did not know, while the lieutenant of dragoons knew nothing of what he did know. The one had used his opportunities to, at least, the extent of his means; the other had thrown away everything, means, opportunities, and friends. If the evidence of the one was rejected utterly, should the evidence of the other have been implicitly received?

One final word must be given to a case of too frequent occurrence, and too vital importance to large classes of unprotected and unfriended people, not to deserve active sympathy. A melancholy catastrophe of fire at sea has re-opened the question often discussed as to the proper equipment of emigration ships. There can be no question that the Caleb Grimshaw was neither provided nor commanded as she ought to have been, and that such boats as she had, at the best quite insufficient for a service of real danger, were in no condition for use at the time of the accident. Some compulsory means should be found of furnishing every such ship with boats fit to carry large numbers in the heaviest sea, and of making it part of the daily duty of seamen (proverbially negligent in such matters) to keep them always in a state for launching and for instant use.

NARRATIVE OF POLITICS.

THE Irish residents in Manchester and Salford held a public meeting on the 3rd, in the Corn Exchange, to present an address to Mr. John Bright, M.P., thanking him for the manner in which he had *Advocated the Claims of Ireland*. Mr. Bright spoke at much length, describing the manner in which the land of Ireland is closed against the industry of its people through its legal possession by an alien or insolvent proprietary; and indicating the measures which he would advise for the redemption of Ireland. The measures which he enumerated included abolition of primogeniture for undevised property, and restrictions on its devise to lives not in being; registry of property; reduction of the enormous charges for stamps for the sale and purchase of land; security of tenure for the practical cultivators of the soil; abolition of the Established Church in Ireland; extension of the suffrage; and reinforcement of the representation in the Imperial Parliament. He exhorted the intelligent and upright men of Ireland to come forth from their isolation, and claim the aid of the English people in forcing upon the government proper measures for their country. "I look," he said, "to the opening of parliament with intense interest. We are ignorant of what the government is about to do—of what Lord

John Russell will undertake, Lord John Russell has been praised for his courage and his sagacity. I will not dispute his possession of these virtues; but the question is—Has he courage and sagacity for the time in which he lives? I hope that Lord John Russell may rise to the great work that is before him. He has an opportunity of doing more for this country than almost any other minister in our time. He might, I believe, add the industry and the affections of millions to the wealth and strength of this great empire. But if he should fail—if he should prove himself to be the agent of a timid and a selfish oligarchy, rather than the prime minister of the crown and of the people—if he should not dare to do these things, which in my conscience I believe he knows to be necessary, even then we will not despair; for there is growing up in England, and I hope in Ireland, a party so strong and so numerous, that by and by it will leave out only the pauperism at one end of the scale, and it may be the titled and the privileged at the other—it will include almost the whole people."

A number of *Protectionist Meetings* have been held this month; and at many of them, the object for which they were called, has been entirely defeated. The following have been most remarkable:—

The *Salisbury* meeting, on the 4th, was interrupted by the endeavours of a strong Free-trade party to prevent the passing of the resolutions. Lord Nelson, the chairman, being much interrupted by exclamations of "Lower your rents!" threatened to have the interrupters ejected. Much fighting and noting ensued, in the midst of which, Lord Nelson ventured to assume that the resolutions were carried.

The Protectionists met an unexpected defeat at a public meeting of the working classes, convened at *Stepney*, on the 7th, in favour of Protection, and "against the present unfair and ruinous system of competition." The meeting was got up by the National Association for the Organisation of Trades. Mr. George Frederick Young presided; and was supported by Mr. Oastler, Mr. Paul Foskett, and other members of the great Central Protection Society. Mr. Samuel Kydd and Mr. Alexander Campbell represented the Protectionist Chartists; and Mr. Clarke, a working man, represented the Chartists who approve the political economy of the Free Traders. Mr. Campbell, after stating that the meeting originated entirely with the delegates of the London trades, a body which had for its object the social and political improvement of the working classes, moved a resolution importing that it was the first duty of the government and legislature to adopt measures for employing and protecting the industrious population; and supported it by a Protectionist speech. Mr. Clarke moved a direct amendment to the resolution, which, he said, with all its talk about protection said nothing about the greatest of all protection—the protection of the vote: his amendment embraced greater freedom of trade, reduction of taxation, and parliamentary reform. A stormy debate ensued, the violence of which was heightened by the appearance of Mr. Richard Oastler, who tried in vain to obtain a hearing. Mr. Clarke moved that the chairman do leave the chair, as having lost the confidence of the meeting; and the motion was carried. A Mr. Hackman was voted into the chair; but Mr. Young refused to quit his place. A taproom chair was supplied, and was "taken" by the new functionary; Mr. Clarke's resolution was triumphantly carried; the meeting was dissolved, and the mass of it departed. When they were gone, Mr. Young and some few faithful adherents attempted to carry on the proceedings in the Protectionist sense. Nothing more, however, was done than the passing of votes of thanks to Mr. Oastler and Mr. Young; who, with their few supporters, finally dispersed, amidst the hootings of the workmen that remained.

The *Buckinghamshire Protectionists* had a meeting at Great Marlow on the 8th. The main resolution denounced the local taxation of real property as a serious hardship. One of the speakers suggested, in preference, the repeal of the malt-tax; but he was not listened to, and the resolution was carried. The lead in the proceedings was taken by Mr. Disraeli.

A Protectionist Meeting at Stafford on the 10th, became the scene of a *Violent Disturbance*. The farmers mustered 400 strong, the townspeople more numerous. Lord St. Vincent moved that Lord Talbot take the chair; and in the course of a speech said something which raised shouts of disapprobation from the townsmen; the farmers cheered; and a contest of shouts led to a contest of blows and missiles. Before long, weapons were in use on both sides, blood was shed, and the townsmen were ejected from the hall. Exasperated by this defeat, they attacked the windows, and scoured the streets for increased numbers to burst open the hall-doors. While Lord Talbot was speaking, a whole window-frame was driven in by an immense stone cast against it. Large stones flew about the room; and one which passed close to Lord Talbot's head wounded a reporter on the forehead, so seriously that he was removed to the Judges' room for surgical aid. The crowd outside seemed about to succeed in forcing open the hall-doors, and as it was evident that the County Constabulary would be too weak to resist them, a message was conveyed to the Mayor for the aid of the town force. The Mayor is said to have sent a refusal of the aid. As his message was delivered the door was finally burst open and fighting was renewed on the hall-floor. Mr. Adderley, the member, addressed the disturbers on their dastardly conduct, telling them with indignation that it convinced him of their unfitness to be trusted with the suffrage they claimed. He hastily moved an address to the Queen, praying for the dissolution of parliament, and the motion was seconded, but the tumult becoming more and more dangerous, Lord Talbot dissolved the meeting, and headed a body of gentlemen and farmers in retreat to a neighbouring inn. On the way, Lord Talbot received a heavy blow on the chest from a brick; he coolly told the mob they were acting very unlike Englishmen. Fighting was kept up for an hour or more all over the town-square; numbers were severely hurt, and the farmers were ultimately fain to seek refuge in the hotels and railway station.

A Protection Meeting at Reading, on the 19th, was attended with *Another Scene of Riot*. The business, from its commencement, was interrupted by hostile cries, which soon led to a general battle between the contending parties. In a short interval of comparative quiet, the proceedings were resumed, but the riot immediately recommenced. The Marquis of Downshire, who appeared among the Protectionists, tried persuasion, but in a rather questionable way. "I am an Irishman," said the Marquis, "and ask only fair play for all parties. I attended a meeting the other day in the county of Down, where arguments and common sense were put down by a mob, and where, I am sorry to say, we—the respectability—could not get a hearing. I am sorry to say we were entirely beaten; but don't let yourselves be beaten now. I am the last man in the room to appeal to physical force; but I declare to you, if there is any more row I 'll head some eight or ten farmers and turn them out." The cheering that followed baffled description. Mr. Weedon (a Free-trader) rose to order; expostulated with the Sheriff for allowing such language, unbecoming a magistrate, to issue from the platform; and, as the farmers took the hypothetical case of the Marquis positively, and proceeded to undoubted physical force, his Lordship again rose, and said—"Don't mistake me; I am no advocate for violence. I would only expel those who disturb the meeting, and will not allow fair play." The fight then raged more furiously than ever. Several were hurled off the seats at the end with violence, and kicked *en passant* to the door, while their hats formed temporary footballs; and, as the Protectionists wore stout boots generally, the effect must have been most unpleasant. Some Free-traders showed fight; but were no match for the burly farmers, who knocked them down right and left. A large gentleman in top-boots and a white coat having danced up and down the benches at the end of the hall, and pushed off some half-dozen men, who were immediately forced to run the gauntlet till they escaped at the door, shouted out, "We've beat them all!" whereupon there was a great stamping of feet and hurraing. Lord Radnor attempted to recal the meeting to its business, but he was not allowed to utter half-a-dozen connected sentences. He coolly said that "if they liked to decide without hearing, they might;" and proceeded to read his free-trade amendment. Mr. Philip Pusey, member for the county, found audience only to state that the repeal of the corn-

laws had brought prices much lower than statesmen had expected; and that he was prepared to advocate in parliament a return to a moderate duty. Greater quietness at length prevailed, and the Protectionists were allowed to go through the form of passing their resolutions.

Another *Violent Meeting* was that of the West Kent Protectionists at Penenden Heath, on the 24th. A Protectionist resolution was moved by Lord Stanhope, and a free-trade one by Mr. Beacon. After much noise the resolutions were put to the meeting. The show of hands appeared equal, but was declared favourable to the Protectionists; and great uproar then arising, the Sheriff soon after dissolved the meeting, almost before a resolution in compliment to himself had been moved. The crowd pelted the mounted farmers with mud, and dispersed with cheers for free trade.

Other large meetings, however, have been unanimous in their *Support of Protection*. This was the case with the meeting of the Leicestershire and Rutlandshire farmers at Waltham, and the meeting of Protectionists at Northampton. At the first the Marquis of Granby and Lord John Manners were speakers; and the Earl of Wilton, Viscount Newport, M.P., Lord C. Manners, M.P.; Mr. Frewen, M.P., were present: at the second, the Earl of Southampton, the Duke of Grafton, Sir Henry Dryden, Sir Charles Knightley, M.P., Earl Pomfret, Mr. Maunsel, M.P., Mr. Stafford, M.P., and Captain Vyse, M.P.

There have been a number of *Protectionist Meetings*, also, in Ireland. The "Great National Meeting" of Protectionists was held on the 17th at the Rotunda in Dublin. The chair was to have been taken at eleven o'clock; but owing to the thinness of the attendance, it was fully an hour later. The Marquis of Downshire then took his seat, and even at that time the round room was not one quarter full. There was, however, a fair sprinkling of the nobility and gentry present. The Earl of Roden was greeted with immense cheers, accompanied by "Kentish fires." The movers and seconders of the resolutions were the Earl of Glengall, Mr. MacCarthy, Mr. Butt, Q.C., the Marquis of Westmeath, the Earl of Shannon, the Hon. Mr. Preston, Mr. James Martin, Lord Clements, Col. Dunn, M.P., Earl of Mayo, Mr. J. Ennis, the Marquis of Drogheda, Colonel Chatterton, M.P., the Earl of Bandon, Mr. T. M. Redmond, the Hon. Colonel Verner, and others.—In the County of Down, Mr. Sharman Crawford moved an amendment on the Protectionist resolution, and carried it. Lord Downshire and the Protectionists retired from the meeting, but the High Sheriff would not dissolve it; and at the end of the proceedings Mr. Sharman Crawford was voted into the chair, in order to thank the High Sheriff for his impartial and manly conduct.—In Limerick, Cork, Cavan, Meath, and Wexford, amendments on Protectionist resolutions have been carried by large majorities.

Lord Wharncliffe has declined to join the *Protectionist Movement*. The requisition for a meeting at York to consider the best means of obtaining the enactment of a fixed duty on grain, having been submitted for his signature, he sent an answer, which has been published, stating that he can in no degree concur in that proposal. He gives it as his firm opinion that there is nothing in the present prospects of agriculture to justify such an application to parliament; and he sees circumstances in the commercial history of the past few years which, with the present ill-defined and exaggerated alarm, account for the temporary extreme depression of agricultural prices. He treats, moreover, the idea of the restoration of the corn-laws as a mere delusion, the propagation of which is pernicious to the true interests of industry.—Lord Yarborough, who was a zealous Protectionist before the repeal of the corn-law, has also declined to join in carrying on the contest. He has refused to sign a requisition for a Protectionist county meeting, advising that the experiment of free-trade should have a further trial under ordinary seasons and circumstances, and thinking that the attempt to re-impose protective duties would end in failure, after convulsing the country and sowing the seeds of mutual animosity among the industrious classes.

A Great Meeting, in connexion with *The Financial and Parliamentary Reform Movement* was held in the County Hall, at Aylesbury, on the 9th, to receive Mr. Cobden, who, in his late speech at Leeds, had challenged the Protectionists to meet him in the Buckinghamshire stronghold, to discuss the question of Protection and Free Trade. Mr. Cobden, having been introduced to the meeting, by whom he was received with loud cheers, addressed them in a powerful and comprehensive speech. He began by maintaining that, by every test that can proclaim the prosperity or adversity of a nation, we stand better now without the corn-laws than we did when we had them. What were the tests of a nation's prosperity? A declining or improving revenue was one test. Our revenue was better now than it was under the corn-laws. Our exports and imports were better than they were under the corn-laws. Then on the question of pauperism, and he would not shrink from that test even in an agricultural district, he had the statistics of many unions in Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire; and he warned the Protectionists that in the case of pauperism, even the Aylesbury districts stood more favourably now with bread at a moderate price, than they did in 1847, when prices were high, and the loaf was nearly double its present rate. Then take the condition of wages, which is a test of the state of the mass of the people. What were the people earning now, compared with what they earned in 1847, when the Protectionists were so well satisfied with the high prices? As a rule, throughout the country more money was being earned now in every branch of business than was earned in 1847, and the working-people were getting the comforts and necessaries of life, in many cases, at two-thirds (and in some cases at less) of the prices of 1847. It had been said that if we had free trade in corn, the gold would all be drained out of the country, because we could not bring in five million quarters of grain without draining away our gold, as the foreigner would not take anything but our gold in exchange for his corn. Now, between thirty and forty millions of foreign corn had been brought into this country within four years, and the Bank of England was never so encumbered with gold as it is now. He repeated, that in every branch of business the rate of wages was improved. He made no exception of any of the trades in that district, not even trades employing women, and instanced the condition of the straw-plaiters and the pillow-lace makers, who were both of them getting more employment. Mr. Cobden proceeded to illustrate his views as to the relation between landlord and tenant, by reference to his management of his own small estate in Sussex. He was interrupted by cries of "How did you get it?"—"I am indebted for it," he answered, "I am proud to say, to the bounty of my countrymen. It was the scene of my birth and my infancy; it was the property of my ancestors; and it is by the munificence of my countrymen that this small estate, which had been alienated by my father from necessity, has again come into my hands, and enabled me to light up afresh the hearth of my father, where I spent my childhood. And I say there is no warrior duke, who owns a vast domain by the vote of the Imperial Parliament, who holds his property by a more honourable title than I possess mine." When the vehement cheers produced by these words had subsided, Mr. Cobden described the course he adopted when he visited the property after it came into his possession. This was in 1848, when prices ranged high in this country; but he, never expecting that those prices would continue, thought it the proper time for every man having an interest in the land to prepare for the coming competition by the foreigner. He gave orders that every hedgerow tree on that estate should be cut down and removed, and authorised them to remove every fence on the estate. That portion which required draining, he had immediately drained at his own cost. His land, lying in the very midst of that of the largest Protectionist landholders, and who as a matter of course were great game-preservers, had been infested particularly with hares and rabbits; and he authorised the tenants on the land to kill all the hares and rabbits, and empower any one else to kill them also. At that time, continued Mr. Cobden, prices ranged high, and they had ranged high during the greater part of the year, and nothing was settled about rent. But in the course

of the last year (he continued) I received a letter from one of my tenants, in which he said, "When I took my farm from your predecessor, it was upon the calculation of wheat being 66*s.* a quarter, but it is now little more than 40*s.*, and I should like to have a new arrangement with regard to the terms." I wrote to him in reply—"The proposition you make is reasonable, and we will have a new bargain. I am willing to enter upon it on the principle of estimating the future price of wheat at 40*s.*; but whilst I am willing to take all the advantage of low prices, I must have the benefit of good cultivation; therefore we must estimate the produce of the land to be such as can be grown by a good farmer upon that quality of land." Now, I say, from that very moment—from the instant I had made that proposition to this farmer—I was not under the slightest anxiety; for I knew there would not be the least difficulty in his carrying on the farm just the same under free trade as under protection. From that moment the farmers upon my small estate no longer felt themselves interested in the question of free trade or protection; the labourers felt they had just as good a prospect of employment as they had before, and they likewise felt no longer interested in the question of protection.

After disposing of the doctrines and projects put forth by Mr. Disraeli and other Protectionists, Mr. Cobden gave it as his advice to the tenant-farmers, that, on the subject of the corn-laws, they ought to meet together, exclusively as one community. "Do not," he said, "let me be misunderstood. I am not going to be misrepresented in this matter. I do not say that upon other questions the small squire and the tenant-farmer ought to be separated, or that landowners and farmers should not go to the same church together, and that they should not meet as friends upon all other questions; but whenever they meet to talk upon the subject of protection and free-trade, tenant-farmers, and tenant-farmers only, ought to meet together. They ought to exclude every landlord from their counsels. Mind, I repeat it, it is only when they have to talk about the subject of protection, or when they have an interest totally distinct and opposite from that of the person who lets the land. They ought to exclude not only the great landed proprietor who lets the land to tenants, but they ought to exclude men whose predominant interest is that of the landlord, though they may be tenant-farmers to an inferior extent. The occupying tenant-farmer is the man who employs his capital in buying the raw material. The land is the raw material, loaned to him for that purpose by the owner of the soil; and the tenant-farmer, in this matter of protection, landlord and the small squire or the land-agent. And until they meet together in a body in their several localities, totally distinct and apart from all other classes, they never will have a chance of arriving at a just appreciation of their own position and their difficulties, and they never will be able to combine together to obtain such terms and conditions as are necessary to enable them to carry on their business under the system of free trade."

The first Metropolitan Meeting of the *National Charter Association* was held on the 14th at the London Tavern. The principal speaker was Feargus O'Connor, who said, among many other things, that he was against all descriptions of poor laws—he was for labour, and for labour's rights. They were all made by God; they were all a devilish deal better-looking fellows than these dukes. If the land were not tilled according to political expediency instead of state necessity, the people would be able to export corn. He proposed to alter that, and to enact that every man who occupied land should have a lease for ever, at a corn rent, and that the landlord should not be able to oust him. Whenever machinery with a hop, step, and jump, came amongst them, and made paupers, he would provide that all such paupers should be enabled to live out of the workhouse by their own labour. He concluded by reciting some verses of his own composition, and his poetry as well as his prose was received with loud cheers. After the meeting had been addressed in advocacy of the Charter by Mr. Reynolds, Mr. M'Grath, Mr. Vernon, Mr. Harney, and Mr. Kydd, a man with a red beard rushed to the platform shouting, "I 'm told to hold my tongue! Chartists, will you allow it? I 'm insulted. Here is the flag of the Charter. Liberty or death!" Some confusion took place, and Mr. O'Connor, after addressing a few words to the angry gentleman beside him, and having appealed to his good sense not to make a disturbance, quickly announced that he must vacate the chair, as he had eight miles to go. He then left the room, and his example was followed by a majority of those present.

On the 18th a meeting, called by Mr. Cobden, was held in the London Tavern, in consequence of Messrs. Baring's advertisement for *a Loan of 5,500,000l. to Russia*, to complete the railway between St. Petersburg and Moscow. Mr. Charles Gilpin presided; and Mr. J. B. Smith, M.P., Mr. Joseph Sturge, and a number of dissenting ministers were on the platform; the body of the large room was crowded. Mr. Cobden moved a resolution, declaring that the real object of the loan was to replenish the Russian treasury, exhausted by the Hungarian war; and that to lend the money for such a purpose would be virtually to sanction the deeds of blood in Hungary, and tempt to future aggression and conquest. He supported this resolution at great length, depreciating the security of the loan, attacking the morality of the lenders of it, and defending the economical principles of his own course of action. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Sturge and others, and the resolution was carried with acclamations.

A memorial on the subject of the *Dolly's Brae Affair* has been addressed by the Roman Catholics of Ulster to the Lord-Lieutenant. They set forth the facts of the case, and the subsequent course taken by government, and petition Lord Clarendon to take further steps to bring to justice all the wrongdoers in the transaction. They pray Lord Clarendon "to prove to the Catholic people of this empire, that creed is no distinction where justice is concerned, by superseding in the commission of the peace those Magistrates who, at a Petty Session held in Castlewellan on the 9th of October last, refused to take information against persons proved to have formed a portion of an avowedly illegal assembly."—A deputation of the Ulster Catholics waited on the Lord-Lieutenant on the 17th, to present their memorial. He declared, in reply, that he was fully sensible how important it is that in the administration of justice distinctions of creed and party should be unknown, but said he did not feel that he could properly recommend to the Lord Chancellor the prayer for the dismissal of the Magistrates. The Magistrates were not personally implicated in the transactions impugned; they acted on their own judgment and responsibility in rejecting the informations; and they should not be removed merely because they declined to abide by the opinion of the law-officer of the Crown.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

A RESPECTABLE-LOOKING woman, who described herself as Mrs. Anna Maria Jones, a novel-writer, complained at Guildhall that another person had *Assumed her Name* in applying for relief from the charity-box. Mrs. Jones handed up a list of her works, which, she said, were well-known works of fiction. Sir P. Laurie, looking over the list, said: Did you write the whole of these?—She replied that she did. (They made 38 volumes.)—Sir P. Laurie said: But you are not the authoress of "The Scottish Chiefs," for that is the work of Anna Maria Porter.—The applicant replied, that one work was called "The Scottish Chiefs," and the other "The Scottish Chieftains." She was not answerable for this seeming piracy; for it was the bookseller's device, to which, perhaps, she weakly yielded. The taste of the public had so completely altered since she began novel-writing, at 19 years of age, that she could get nothing by such labour now.—Sir P. Laurie said she was not the only literary character who was complaining of the entire change in the public taste, and had been thereby reduced to straitened circumstances.—She said that was unhappily her case. She could no longer support herself in comfort by her pen; and, to increase her distress, her husband, to whom she had looked for support, had become of impaired intellect.—Sir P. Laurie asked what her husband's name was?—She replied it was Lowndes, and that he

had been in business for a long time as a dramatic bookseller, but had failed, and that misfortune preyed upon his mind. Although she was in straitened circumstances, she was not reduced to beg charity at a police-office.—Sir P. Laurie said he had no doubt the newspapers would set her right with the public.

Two smart young women, sisters, named Bridget and Julia Connolly, were charged at Croydon Sessions with *slaughtering a Fat Wether* on the lands of Mr. Fuller, farmer, Addiscomb, on Sunday morning, the 6th, and carrying away the carcass. As two police constables were going their rounds that morning, they met the girls, and, observing something bulky on their persons, they questioned them as to what they had about them. They said, nothing but their bed-things; but the officers, not satisfied with this, overhauled them, and found on each a half-carcass of mutton. They in consequence conveyed them to the station-house, and some time after they found the hide, head, and entrails of a sheep in a field belonging to Mr. Fuller. On comparing the mutton with the skin no doubt could remain they both belonged to one and the same animal; and as little doubt remained that the prisoners were its butchers, as a sharp clasp-knife was found on each, with a part of the fresh suet and fat attached to them.

At the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh, on Saturday the 5th, Andrew Forrest, a youth of eighteen, was tried for the *Murder of a Gamekeeper*, named Kirby, at Cambuslang. There was no doubt, from the youth's confession as well as other evidence, that he killed the man; the trial turned upon the question whether he did it wilfully. Forrest was out with a gun, intending to poach; on the road he encountered Kirby, who had two dogs in a leash, one a very fierce creature, a cross between a Newfoundland and a bull-dog. Some altercation ensued, and probably the savage dog seized Forrest's leg, for it was wounded by a dog; then the youth fired—as he said, at the dog; but the man was killed. The dog might have torn the prisoner *after* he had fired; or, on the contrary, the lad's story might be true. The Lord Justice Clerk summed up very favourably for the accused; severely censuring the gamekeeper's practice of leading about the savage dog. The Jury returned a verdict of "Not proven."

In the Bankruptcy Court, two *Swindling Bill Transactions* were exposed on Monday, the 7th, when William Thomas Ferris, professedly a builder and carpenter, applied for his certificate. He was opposed by Mr. Walter Lockhart Scott, the grandson of Sir Walter Scott, as creditor for more than 600*l.* of costs incurred in defending an action brought by Ferris on a bill of exchange fraudulently obtained. The bankrupt's name will be recollected as that of the plaintiff in actions against Mr. Scott and the Reverend Mr. Curzon, tried some eighteen months ago. Bills had been fraudulently obtained without the payment of consideration, and then Ferris had been used as the "respectable tradesman into whose hands the bills had come honestly for full consideration," to sue for the amount. Mr. Scott successfully defended the action against himself, and exposed the transactions of the gang of swindlers who obtained the bill from him. Commissioner Goulburn was convinced that Ferris had been art and part in the conspiracy from commencement to close; the certificate was therefore refused.

An appalling case of *Sudden Death* occurred at the Central Criminal Court on Monday, the 7th, during the trial of Samuel Grieves Harvey, a tall, powerful man, for an assault on James Dodsley Tawney. Mr. Tawney was a slender, diminutive attorney; Harvey was a stout horse-dealer: the two frequently met each other at Messrs. Osborn and Co.'s stables in Gray's Inn Lane. Mr. Tawney had, on behalf of clients, taken legal measures against Harvey—sued him for debts, and opposed his discharge in the Insolvent Court; and Harvey had been much exasperated. The two meeting at Osborn's, Harvey charged Mr. Tawney with getting up the opposition, and wanted to know who were the opposing creditors. The solicitor declined to tell him. The defendant went out, and returned in a short time with two hunting-whips, one of them loaded at the end with iron, and the other a plane cane one. The defendant offered Mr. Tawney the latter; saying, "Take that." This was declined, and the defendant went out. Mr. Tawney waited a short time, thinking he would go away: he then went towards his gig, which had been waiting for him; and he observed the defendant standing with the heavy hunting-whip in his hand. As he was about to get into his gig, Harvey attacked him behind, beat him on the back and shoulders, and tried to beat him on the head, but the prosecutor held up his hands and warded off the blows. Mr. Banks, one of the partners, came up and laid hold of the defendant, and said to him, "Good God! Harvey, are you mad?" but the defendant threw him away from him, and continued his violence. Mr. Tawney had just succeeded in getting into the gig, when the defendant struck him on the back of the head; the blow stunned him for a moment, and his horse ran off, but was soon stopped by some cabmen in the King's Road. When this assault took place, Harvey well knew that his victim was suffering from a disease of the heart. As the prosecutor was about to leave the witness-box, he fell senseless. Two surgeons immediately attended him. Mr. Ballantine, who appeared for the prisoner, was unable to offer any defence. The Recorder briefly addressed the Jury, and they immediately gave a verdict of "Guilty." The Recorder said he would not pass sentence at present on Harvey for his aggravated assault: if Mr. Tawney should die, he would have to meet a more serious charge. This had hardly been said when the surgeons announced that Mr. Tawney *had* died, as he lay on the floor of the witness-box. The Recorder ordered Harvey to be detained. An inquest was held on the body of Mr. Tawney, on Thursday. The evidence showed the ill health that he had suffered for years; his medical attendant stated that he had warned the deceased's relatives that he would die suddenly. Death had been caused by congestion of the brain, resulting from a disease of the heart. Several witnesses described the altercation between Mr. Tawney and Harvey. The Jury returned a verdict, that James Dodsley Tawney died from congestion of blood on the brain, produced by disease of the heart; and that he had been cruelly and brutally assaulted by Harvey. Sentence of imprisonment for twelve months was passed on Harvey, by the Recorder, on the 11th. He regretted that the result of the medical inquiry respecting the immediate cause of Mr. Tawney's death would prevent Harvey's trial for a more serious offence.

A boy named George Ruby, who appeared about 14 years of age, was put in the witness-box at Guildhall, on the 8th, to *Give Evidence in a Case of Assault* on a police-officer, when the following dialogue took place:—Alderman Humphery: Well, do you know what you are about? Do you know what an oath is? Boy: No. Alderman: Can you read? Boy: No. Alderman: Do you ever say your prayers? Boy: No; never. Alderman: Do you know what prayers are? Boy: No. Alderman: Do you know what God is? Boy: No. Alderman: Do you know what the devil is? Boy: I 've heard of the devil, but I don't know him. Alderman: What do you know? Boy: I knows how to sweep the crossings. Alderman: And that 's all? Boy: That 's all. I sweeps a crossing. The Alderman said that in all his experience he had never met with anything like the deplorable ignorance of the poor unfortunate child in the witness-box.

At the Hereford City Sessions on the 8th, the Recorder, in his *Charge to the Grand Jury*, said, it appeared to him a very serious circumstance that there should be at the present sessions a greater number of prisoners by one-half than at any previous sessions since he had had the honour of sitting as recorder. He was further sorry to say that some of the offences charged were of a very serious description. He had compared the present calendar with the calendars at other sessions for boroughs. At the last Maidstone Sessions, a few days ago, where the population amounted to at least 20,000, the number of prisoners was five only. At Dover, where the jurisdiction comprehended, not only the large town of Dover but much of the adjacent district, and also Margate, there were only eight prisoners for trial. At Canterbury, situated on the great highway to the Continent, and a large thoroughfare for people of all descriptions, with a population of 20,000, the number of prisoners for

trial on the 3rd of January last was only nine. At Rochester there were only four prisoners for trial. The contrast of these four boroughs with the city of Hereford presented a result of an alarming character. He repeated, therefore, it became all persons anxious for the welfare of society to consider whether some measures could not be taken to check that vice and immorality to which, in his opinion, was principally to be attributed the increase of crime in this district.

At the Middlesex Sessions on the 8th, A. Weston, a coach-painter, was indicted for *Assaulting* Mary Weston, his wife, since deceased, and Mary Ann Coney. The prisoner and his wife lived in an upper room of a house in the Colonnade, Russell Square; but from his being out of employment and his intemperate habits they experienced severe privations. They frequently quarrelled, and on December 6, they and Mary Ann Coney, the wife's sister, sat down to a breakfast procured with a borrowed sixpence, when the prisoner applied a foul epithet to his wife. She replied, that if she deserved the name, he was then eating the produce of the conduct that entitled her to it, whereupon he threw a spoonful of hot tea into her face, and she in return threw a mug full of tea over him. He had their child, about 16 months old, in his arms, and, rising from his seat, he dealt her, with the hand he had at liberty, some blows on the side of the head, and would have done more had not Coney taken up a knife, and threatened to use it if he did not desist. The same afternoon he told Coney that he should turn her out of his place, seized her by the wrist, and threw her with great violence into the passage. On the following day he beat his wife, who was in such a weak condition that she could not stand, and she fell, striking her head against the fireplace. She died on the following Wednesday. A surgeon stated she had died from congestion on the brain, which from her condition of body a slight cause, such as a fall, might have produced. The defence was that the prisoner had received great provocation, his wife being a woman of lazy and dirty habits. The prisoner was found "Guilty," and sentenced to two months' imprisonment in the House of Correction.

At the Wandsworth Police Office on the 9th, Mr. John McDonough, a surgeon practising at Clapham, was charged with *Assaulting* Sarah Baldwin, one of his servants. On the morning of the 7th, after some altercation in the surgery, he followed her into the kitchen, and taking hold of her by the shoulders gave her a tremendous blow on the head. Then wresting a hot poker out of her hand he raised it to strike her on the head. The blow was warded off by her uplifted arm, which was severely hurt. When about to strike her a second time, the poker was forcibly taken from him by her fellow-servant. He was fined the full penalty of 5*l*.

At the Central Criminal Court on the 10th instant, Sarah Drake was indicted for the *Wilful Murder* of her male bastard child by strangling it with a handkerchief. The prisoner, of whose previous history little was known, had been recently engaged in the service of Mr. Huth, of Harley Street, as cook and housekeeper. From the evidence it appeared that in 1848, when three months old, the child was placed with Mrs. Johnson of Shorley Common, to nurse. Payment was regularly made for its maintenance for some time, but gradually fell off. On the 27th of November 1849, the nurse received a letter from the prisoner, stating that she was going with a family to Madrid, and regretting her inability to pay her the arrears owing at present. In consequence of this the nurse took the child the same day to the prisoner in Harley Street, and left it with her, refusing her intreaty to take him back for a week. The child was carried up to the housekeeper's room, and nothing further was seen of it. At the usual dinner hour the prisoner absented herself under the pretext of writing a letter, and having a box of clothes to pack for her sister. She did not appear again until three o'clock, when one of the servants entering her bedroom saw the box packed in a wrapper and corded. It was carried down stairs next morning and sent to the station, addressed to her brother-in-law, Mr. Theophilus Burton, North Leverton, near Retford. A letter, which had since been burnt, was sent advising the forwarding of the box. Mr. Burton went the day following with her brother to East Retford and received it. On forcing the lock, the dead body of a child was discovered. On the box being searched by the police an apron was found slightly stained with blood, and marked S. Drake. Various articles of clothing were identified by the nurse. At the Marylebone station, in answer to the inquiries of the female searcher, she stated that, afraid of losing her place, she had hung it and sent it to her sister to be buried. The counsel for the prisoner made an eloquent and feeling defence, endeavouring to prove that the crime had been committed in a temporary frenzy of insanity. He urged the jury to look at the situation of the prisoner. After her seduction—after receiving the greatest injury that could be inflicted upon her by one of the other sex—she had been abandoned and left with limited resources, and suffering from bad health, to provide for this unhappy child. She had done so. She had struggled to preserve her reputation, which was all she had to depend upon, to protect her from utter destruction, and there was no doubt that the manner in which the child was suddenly thrown upon her hands, and the dreadful consequences which she foresaw must result from it, had for the moment unsettled her reason, and drove her to the commission of the dreadful act. A verdict of "Not guilty, on the ground of insanity" was returned by the jury, and the prisoner ordered to be detained in safe custody during Her Majesty's pleasure.

At the New Central Criminal Court on the 11th, Daniel Blackmore, a shoemaker, aged 57, was indicted for *Stabbing* Henry Alexander Matthew, a policeman, with intent to murder him. On Sunday night, Dec. 23rd, whilst the officer was on duty in the Old Bailey, the prisoner's wife came up to him and said, "You are the thief that locked me up the other night." Becoming still more abusive and a mob assembling, he was obliged to convey her to the station-house, where the prisoner went and begged for her liberation. After being detained a short time, she was let off. About a quarter to eleven, having just been warned that her husband was in search of him and threatened to do for him, while standing at the corner of Skinner Street, the prisoner came up to him and said, "Are you the man that took my wife to the station?" On replying that he was, he instantly said, "Take that, you ——," inflicting a wound just about the navel. Feeling that he was stabbed, the officer called out for help, and another policeman coming to his assistance, the prisoner was arrested. The defence of Blackmore was, that being intoxicated he knew nothing about the transaction. The jury having found him guilty of the whole charge, the Recorder ordered sentence of death to be recorded, intimating that in consequence of his age, and having been wounded as a soldier, he should recommend the sentence of transportation for life to be commuted to fifteen years.

In the Court of Queen's Bench on the 11th, Sir Frederick Thesiger applied on behalf of the Count de Thomar, Prime Minister of Portugal, for a rule Nisi calling on the proprietors of the Morning Post to show cause against the issue of a criminal information for the publication of a *Libel*, accusing the Count of obtaining 158,000*l*. by corrupt and unwarrantable political practices, and imputing "light conduct" to the Queen of Portugal in connexion with the Count. The rule was granted.

A notable instance of *Gullibility* was exhibited a few days ago. A maiden lady in Harley Street was waited upon by a decently dressed, serious-looking person named Brown, who presented to her the following letter:—

Alderman Farebrother presents his compliments to Miss——, and begs to recommend to her notice the case of Mr. Edward Carless Brown, of Richmond (son of the late Mr. George Brown) who has sustained a severe loss of property in emigrating to Australia, which the enclosed certificate specifies, signed by the civic authorities; and if stronger claims on Miss ——'s purse do not prevent her subscribing to this case, I can assure that lady it is one meriting her sympathy, inasmuch as Mr. Brown and family are now entirely ruined, their object being to realise a sum sufficient to defray their expenses to Port Adelaide. Mr. Farebrother takes more than usual interest in this case from the circumstance of the bearer making his statement at the Guildhall. He therefore trusts that the motive which actuates him in addressing Miss —— on his behalf will be deemed an apology.

Lower Thames Street, Jan. 4, 1850.

It never occurred to the lady to question the authenticity of this epistle, though she might have observed that people of education do not generally mix up the third and first person in the same sentence. Mr. Farebrother's interference, too, for the reason assigned —"the circumstance of the bearer making his statement at the Guildhall"—might have struck a sensible person as somewhat odd; but the lady was perfectly satisfied, and handed over her subscription. Two days afterwards Alderman Farebrother received, to his great astonishment, the subjoined note:—

Harley Street, Jan. 5.

Miss —— presents her compliments to Mr. Alderman Farebrother, and in case Edward Carless Brown should not have made up the outfit necessary for himself and family, she begs he will be so good as to send him to her again on Monday morning, between half-past ten and one o'clock, as she has some articles of clothing which she could give him, in addition to her subscription.

Of course Mr. Farebrother knew nothing of Mr. Brown, and so he informed the lady—one of those benevolent persons, evidently, whose easy credulity gives so much encouragement to imposture.

In the Central Criminal Court on the 12th, Lewis Joel, a jeweller and bill-discounter, was sentenced to ten years transportation for *Forging a Bill of Exchange* for 1000*l.*, in the name of Lieut. Clements. Mr. Clements had previously been the victim of Joel and other money-lenders, and the case altogether disclosed a very painful, but only too common picture of extravagance on one side and extortion on the other. Two affidavits made by the prisoner were put in as evidence. In these Joel stated that the prosecutor had given him a blank acceptance while he was under age, with the understanding that Joel should fill it up for 1000*l*, when Mr. Clements had attained his majority in August, 1847. This was the bill now said to be forged. Mr. Clements was examined. He said he knew Joel in Dublin, while himself was in the 13th Light Dragoons. Had many transactions with him, obtaining money and jewellery for bills of exchange. He never signed a bill for 1000*l.*, never accepted a bill in blank, never authorised any one to accept a bill. In cross-examination he admitted he had acted in a most reckless way in raising money on bills, and getting into debt with tradesmen during his minority. Two other bills for smaller amounts now in existence, he declared to be forgeries. Many of his answers began, "My impression is," and his recollection of money transactions was very imperfect. He had taken stones out of the jewellery that he had bought, and sold them. I cannot say whether I so disposed of them on the day after I received them from the prisoner, but I should think it was not so soon. I took the diamonds out of the settings partly to amuse myself by weighing them and partly to see how they looked out of the settings. I don't know what became of the settings." He gave "jewellery and money to a woman in Dublin." Mr. Pullman, a barrister, employed in 1847 to settle the prosecutor's affairs, deposed that Joel did not state to him that he had the 1000*l.* bill; he only heard of it last summer. Evidence was adduced showing how the present holders of the bill, who had instituted legal proceedings against Mr. Clements upon it, had received it from Joel in Dublin, in September last. Several witnesses expressed a belief that the signature to the bill was not Mr. Clements' writing. The jury, after considering for an hour and a half, gave a verdict of "Guilty" of uttering the bill, knowing it to be forged.

An extraordinary case of obtaining goods, or "*Living on the Public*," was disclosed in the Insolvent Debtors' Court, on the 19th, when Joseph William Williams, late of Fenchurch Street, ironmonger, was opposed by various creditors. The insolvent made on the present occasion his "fourth appearance" before the court, besides having figured as a bankrupt. In 1831, he was a bankrupt, owing 1100*l.*; in 1834 he petitioned this court and was relieved from debts to 760*l.*; in 1840 he again petitioned, and was remanded for three months for a vexatious defence; he then owed 1027*l.* Again, in 1847, he made his third appearance, owing 2300*l.*, and having in his schedule no fewer than 106 creditors. He now again made his appearance with numerous creditors and debts to 1300*l.*, including bills accepted by a person named Thomas Thomas, for his accommodation. The complaint on the part of the creditors was that their debts had been contracted by means of fraud. Evidence was given to the effect that the insolvent had offered iron at 6*l.* a ton, when he was charged 8*l.* 15*s.* for similar iron; and it was alleged that the exposure would be advantageous to the public, in order to put the trading community on their guard against a person of his plausible manners. For the last eighteen years he had gone on getting into debt 6400*l.*, or living on the public at the rate of 350*l.* a year. Mr. Commissioner Phillips, in giving judgment, held that the debts had been fraudulently contracted. This was the case of a man now coming for the "fifth time" with accumulated debts of more than 6000*l.* For the protection of the public, he was bound to mark such a case by a judgment of imprisonment for twelve months.

On the 21st, Mr. Alexander Novelli, a merchant of Manchester, and Mrs. Novelli, his brother's widow, were found dead under circumstances that immediately led to a suspicion of *Murder and Suicide*. Mr. Louis Novelli died about sixteen months ago, leaving his widow and two children handsomely provided for. Mr. Alexander Novelli was one of the executors, and took up his residence with the widow. They appeared on good terms. On Sunday, the 20th, they seemed in ordinary health; at night the servants left them in the sitting-room. Next morning a servant found Mrs. Novelli dead, lying on the floor of the sitting-room, and partly undressed; the body quite cold. On searching for Mr. Novelli, his body was found suspended to a rail in his bedroom; the body was still warm, as also was his bed. An inquest was begun the same day. Evidences were shown of a struggle in the sitting-room; there were marks of pressure and scratches on Mrs. Novelli's throat and head. The state of the heart, blood vessels, and blood, showed she had died from strangulation. The inquest was adjourned to the 23rd, for evidence of Mr. Novelli's mental state, when his solicitor described his strange conduct on several occasions. He complained that inspecting the accounts affected his head. The witness said, that the deceased was a weak, soft-headed boy, passionate and impulsive. Another witness stated, that Mr. Novelli's mother had been insane; two of his brothers died by their own hands; a sister now living, is insane. The Jury consulted for a quarter of an hour, and then returned this verdict—"That Mr. Novelli had destroyed the lives first of Mrs. Novelli, and afterwards of himself, being at the time of insane mind."

Judgment was given on the 22nd, in the Exchequer Chamber, on the *Braintree Church-rate Case*, which has been several years before the ecclesiastical and common law courts, and has excited much public interest, involving the important question, whether the churchwardens and a minority of the parishioners can make a valid church-rate. In the month of July, 1841, at a vestry meeting, called for voting a rate for the repairs of the parish church of Braintree; a motion was made for a rate of two shillings in the pound, and duly seconded; an amendment was then moved, and carried by an immense majority, denouncing all connexion between church and state in general, and church-rates in particular. After this the great majority of the parishioners left, and then the churchwardens and others of the rate-payers carried the original resolution without opposition. When the inhabitants heard of this result they resolved to oppose the rate, and the churchwardens having commenced proceedings in the ecclesiastical courts against the plaintiff in error, the latter moved the Court of Queen's Bench for a writ of prohibition. The writ was granted, and on the return to it being argued the court gave judgment, approving of the proceedings of the churchwardens, thereby affirming the validity of the rate declared by the minority. From that decision the case was brought into the Exchequer Chamber, on a writ in error. The court which now gave judgment was divided in opinion. Baron Platt, Justice Cresswell, Justice Maule, and Baron Alderson, affirmed the doctrine that the repair of the church fabric is a duty which the parishioners are compellable to perform, and that the minority can make a rate if the

majority refuses to make one; Baron Rolfe, Baron Parke, and Chief Justice Wilde, dissented from the doctrine that the minority can bind the majority. The judgment of the majority of the bench was, that the judgment of the court below (the Queen's Bench) must be affirmed. So the monition of the Ecclesiastical Court to make a rate is now of operative force.

At the Middlesex Sessions, held at Clerkenwell, on the 22nd, William Anderson, a sharp-looking boy, aged fourteen, was indicted for *Robbery*. At about mid-day, on the 10th, he entered the shop of Mr. Cooper, baker, at Stepney, and asked Mrs. Cooper, who was serving behind the counter, for a halfpenny-worth of bread, at the same time laying down a penny. As she was about to give him the difference, he threw a handful of pepper in her eyes; and, jumping upon the counter, proceeded to help himself to the contents of the till, but becoming alarmed, he retreated, having got but threepence into his possession. Mr. Cooper pursued, and having overtaken him in Suffolk Street, he very coolly turned round, and presenting Mr. Cooper with the threepence, said, "It 's only threepence, so it 's not worth running for, and I gives in; but you wouldn't have nabbed me if it had been more!" He was then handed over to a policeman. But two days before this transaction, the prisoner had been liberated from Ilford gaol; where he had been imprisoned for highway robbery. He, and three others, having stopped a chaise on a turnpike-road; and one of them, not the prisoner, fired a pistol at the driver. They robbed the chaise and made off. The judge said this case presented a most extraordinary instance of juvenile depravity; and sentenced the culprit to imprisonment with hard labour for six months.

At the Mansion House, on the 28th, Alderman Humphery expounded a point in *Omnibus Law*, when a conductor of a Camberwell omnibus was summoned for having refused to admit a gentleman as a passenger into his omnibus. A few days before, at a quarter before five, the complainant went to the door of the omnibus, being desirous to be driven as far as Walworth, and requested the conductor to allow him to enter. The evening was extremely wet, but the conductor refused to admit the applicant, and excused himself upon the ground that all the seats were engaged, at the same time that there was abundance of room in the vehicle. The complainant represented the unfairness of the refusal, and determined to have the decision of a magistrate upon the subject. A gentleman who regularly takes a seat in the defendant's omnibus stated that the defendant was expected by his regular "whole of the way" customers to keep seats for them, especially in wet weather, during which alone the passengers to Walworth or the Elephant and Castle were disposed to ride. The conductor stated he considered himself bound to reserve seats for his regular "whole of the way" customers, and had acted accordingly. The Alderman admitted the reasonableness of the defence, but the law was positive on the subject. No seat could be reserved so as to prevent any applicant being refused admission into the omnibus. No penalty was inflicted.

An inquest was held on the 29th, on Martha Joachim, a *Wealthy and Eccentric Lady*, late of 27, York-buildings, Marylebone, aged 62. The jury proceeded to view the body, but had to beat a sudden retreat, until a bull-dog, belonging to deceased, and which savagely attacked them, was secured. It was shown in evidence that on the 1st of June, 1808, her father, an officer in the Life Guards, was murdered and robbed in the Regent's Park. A reward of 300*l.* was offered for the murderer, who was apprehended with the property upon him, and executed. In 1825, a suitor of the deceased, whom her mother rejected, shot himself while sitting on the sofa with her, and she was covered with his brains. From that instant she lost her reason. Since her mother's death, eighteen years ago, she had led the life of a recluse, dressed in white, and never going out. A charwoman occasionally brought her what supplied her wants. Her only companions were the bull-dog, which she nursed like a child, and two cats. Her house was filled with images of soldiers in lead, which she called her "body-guards." When the collectors called for their taxes, they had to cross the garden-wall to gain admission. One morning she was found dead in her bed; and a surgeon who was called in, said she had died of bronchitis, and might have recovered with proper medical aid. The jury returned a verdict to that effect.

In the Insolvent Debtors' Court on the 29th, Capt. Robert Talbot, of the Royal Artillery, having applied for his *Discharge*, the application was opposed by counsel on behalf of John Jeffreys. Jeffreys was the racket-keeper of the regiment, and Captain Talbot its treasurer; Jeffreys sued his Captain in the County Court for 5*l.* arrears of salary, and obtained judgment; thereupon he was dismissed from his appointment, and "forcibly ejected therefrom" by Captain Talbot and some other members of the regiment. He brought an action for the assault; and it came on for trial at the Maidstone Assizes, but was compromised on the advice of the Judge, by an admitted verdict for nominal damages only enough to carry costs; six counsel had been engaged. It appeared that Capt. Talbot's debts amounted to 700*l.*; 600*l.* in respect of his own costs and those of Jeffreys. Not being in possession of funds to pay this amount, he sought the benefit of this Court, almost exclusively, if not solely, for the purpose of relieving himself from the costs attendant on keeping up the legal hall with Jeffreys; and he admitted the arrest on which he was in custody was a friendly one, made with the above object. The Commissioner felt doubts as to receiving such a petition, and dismissed it after consulting with the Chief Commissioner.

At the Marylebone Police Office on the 30th, J. Gammage, master of a National School at Paddington, was charged with having *Cruelly Ill-used* a William Taylor, one of his pupils, a delicate little boy, 10 years of age. The witnesses examined proved the boy had been so severely caned for a breach of school discipline, that large wheals, from one of which blood flowed, were produced on his shoulders and sides. In reply it was alleged that the boy had behaved with great impropriety while in attendance on a lecture in the school, and required correction, and also that he was generally unruly; and a number of testimonials from clergymen, which set forth that the defendant was a man much respected, firm of purpose, and kind towards his pupils, were produced. The Rev. Mr. Boone spoke in the highest terms of the defendant, whose salary had recently, in consequence of his valuable services, been raised. The magistrate considered that the chastisement was of much too severe a nature, and inflicted a penalty of 40*s.* The amount was paid by the Rev. W. Boone, who considered it a very hard case.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

ACCOUNTS have been received of the *Loss of the Transport, Richard Dart*, with a lamentable loss of life. She left Gravesend on the 5th of April last year, for Auckland; besides the crew, there was a detachment of twenty-eight sappers and miners, under the command of Lieutenant Liddell, Dr. Fitton with his wife and child, Dr. Gale, Mr. Kelly, four soldiers' wives, and nine children. South of the Cape of Good Hope bad weather was experienced, and on the 19th of June the ship struck on the north side of Prince Edward's Islands. The waves ran terrifically high; the boats were filled and torn from the quarter, and the sea swept away forty-seven of the passengers and crew. Of these, the chief mate alone contrived to reach the rocks. The commander, four seamen, an apprentice, and four of the soldiers, took refuge in the mainmast rigging; and the wreck having been driven broadside to the shore, the mainmast went by the board, falling fortunately upon the rock, and the survivors crawled along the spar to the shore. The night was intensely cold, and there were frequent falls of snow; the sufferings of the unfortunate men were consequently most severe. They found on the shore a few blankets which had been washed from the wreck; but they were unable to obtain any provisions beyond a piece of beef, and they subsisted upon the raw flesh of birds. In the course of six or seven days they determined on exploring the island. One of the soldiers perished from the intensity of the cold and the want of proper nourishment, and after rambling about the island for no

less than forty-two days, they fell in with a party of men, explorers, in the service of a Mr. Geary, of Cape Town; and for the following thirty-two days, no vessel touching at the island, these people generously shared with the sufferers their stock of food. They were at last conveyed to the Cape, by a vessel that had brought a supply of provisions to the island.

A merchant schooner, the "Mary," of Dartmouth, bringing palm-oil from the coast of Africa, was *Wrecked* on the morning of the 28th of December, on the coast of Cornwall, between Manacle Rock and Pendennis Castle. Her crew were seven in number, of whom two were blacks. They had been fourteen days without any provisions, except an allowance of two table-spoonfuls of flour daily, and it had been agreed to kill the dog on board for sustenance, unless relieved. She was driven into the bay by a violent gale, and the exhausted crew were unable to keep her off the shore, upon which she was stranded, the waves dashing over her at each return, and the crew clinging to the lee side, making earnest gestures for assistance. At length the expedient was adopted of throwing the log-line from the ship, as a primary means of establishing communication. The vessel lay under the cliff, above which is the house of the Reverend Mr. Coope, the rector of Falmouth. The rector, having a great knowledge of the footing on the cliff, attempted to catch the line, for which purpose he waded into the water some feet, and was nearly carried off by a sea. To the log-line a large rope was attached, and to it a hemp cable; the end of the cable was fixed round a bridge in Mr. Coope's walk, near the bathing-place. The first who ventured and succeeded in reaching the shore by the cable was the mate. It was a passage of much hazard, he being some seconds suspended midway, owing to the rope not traversing the cable, and by every lurch of the vessel dashed into the surf on the rocks. The remainder of the crew got on shore one by one in a barrel, hung by a hank to the cable. As they landed they were most kindly received by the rector and his family. Soup, brandy and water, coffee, and a joint of meat, were placed before them; the greatest care being taken to guard against the danger to be apprehended from the incautious feeding of long-famished men. To those who were inclined to take rest, beds were offered, of which three of the men took advantage, including an African, who appeared quite exhausted. Mr. Coope, throughout the entire day, remained in the vicinity of the wreck, offering every assistance in his power. The vessel did not go to pieces for several days, during which time a considerable portion of the cargo was saved.

Madame Sontag, the celebrated singer, has been nearly *Lost in the Snow* in the Highlands of Scotland, where she has been giving concerts. On Friday morning the 28th of December, she left Glasgow with her party for Aberdeen, to attend the morning concert on the following day. At Middleton Bridge, near Laurencekirk, the engine ran into a cutting filled with snow to the depth of six feet and then became completely immovable. At this time, five in the afternoon, the blast was most fierce and cutting, carrying the drift from the fields into the hollow of the railway, and rapidly burying the carriages. A consultation having been held with the guard and driver, a gentleman of the party determined to leave the train, and endeavour to reach Laurencekirk on foot. This, with the assistance of two guides, he happily accomplished, although the strength of the wind and the depth of the snow brought them several times to a stand-still. Aid having been procured, and a basket of provisions got ready, the party again started for the embedded train. The wind being now in their faces, the task became more difficult as well as dangerous; but, by avoiding the road and taking through the fields, from which the snow had been partially dislodged, the train was once more reached, at half-past seven. The question was now, whether it was possible to remove the ladies from the carriages, and gain the summit of the cutting. Madame Sontag, with undaunted energy, at once determined to attempt it, and descended from the carriage. The men were sent on before to make a track; and Madame Sontag, after great exertion and several falls, reached the level ground. There the blast became quite blinding; but Madame Sontag, having covered her head with a cloak, was soon supported through the fields and over the fences to the house of Mr. Wilson, a most hospitable farmer; where, with Count Rossi, Mr. F. Lablache, Signor Calzolari, and Signor Piatti, she remained all night. Mr. Wood, with some others of the party, again faced the blast, and reached Laurencekirk in safety, although much worn out. Next morning, the snow had so completely filled the cutting as to bury the carriages.

On New Year's Eve Mary Ann Weed, the wife of a lighterman at Bankside, *Drowned Herself in the Thames.* She was confined with a daughter, and progressed very well until the night of the 5th, when symptoms of delirium came on. She was frequently seen by Mr. Caudle, surgeon, of Great Guildford-street, who gave the nurse particular orders not to leave her for a moment, nor to let her go from her sight. She became so much worse that a relation went for Mr. Caudle, who attended, and found her so alarmingly altered that he questioned the nurse as to what she had been giving her, when she admitted that she had allowed the deceased to drink a glass of beer. Having remonstrated with the nurse he left the room, and shortly after his departure she got out of bed and asked the nurse to let her go below to see her husband, who was asleep in the parlour, which was acceded to. She had not been gone more than two minutes when the nurse went in search of her, and, to her astonishment, found the street door open, and her charge missing with only her night-dress on. An alarm was raised, and every search made for her, and although every possible effort was made, the deceased was not discovered till Wednesday the 24th, when she was found in the river, off the centre arch of London-bridge, by a waterman. At the inquest, the jury in strong terms condemned the conduct of the nurse, and ultimately a verdict of "Temporary Insanity" was recorded.

Three lives were lost at the Maghull station on the East Lancashire Railway, on the 1st of January. A train left Preston for Liverpool with only one carriage attached; at the Ormskirk station there was an accession of passengers, for whom there was no adequate room. When the train arrived at the Maghull station there was a spare carriage on the siding, and to get hold of this the train was moved to the other line of rails. Meanwhile another train was heard approaching; knowing they were on the wrong rails the passengers grew alarmed, and several jumped out; three of them got on to the other rails, were caught by the engine, and killed on the spot. At the inquest it was shown that the train, a luggage one, was following the passenger train at a speed of more than forty miles an hour, contrary to the regulations of the company. The driver was given into custody.

A melancholy case of *Death from Starvation*, has occurred at Southampton. Elizabeth Biggs, a delicate young woman, whose poverty had made her a constant recipient of parish relief for some months past, applied one day, towards the end of last month, to the parish doctor for medical relief. He saw that she was more in need of nourishment and shelter than of medicines, and he gave her an order for immediate admission to the workhouse. Her brother accompanied her thither, and she obtained admission; but it would seem that she remained only a short time. Too delicate to endure the severe cold of the lodging in the "tramp-house," where casual paupers are given shelter for the night on a bed of straw, with the covering of one quilt, she complained of illness, and, on her own request, was let out of the workhouse. She was found by her sister in the afternoon, sitting on the ground in the street, with her child of two years old at her side; she seemed too weak to go on to the lodging-house on which she had a poor-law order for a night's sleep. Her sister took her to this lodging-house for the night. Next day her sister found her very ill indeed, from sheer starvation; and asked why she had not applied to the workhouse people for a loaf. "A tall man, a doctor," she said, "told the relieving-officer not to do so; and bade her go to her own parish, for her parish would not do so for them." Her sister persuaded her to go once more to the workhouse; but the porter refused admittance, on the ground that she had no order for that day. The sister took her to lodgings, and paid for a bed for one more night. Next

morning, the poor woman was so ill that Mr. Cooper, the Union surgeon, was sent for. He sent her medicine immediately, and attended in the course of the day, but too late to save her life; for, on his arrival, she was already dying. At the inquest the people of the lodging-house stated that she had been offered food, but was unable to take it. The surgeon and the relieving-officer were fully examined. After much deliberation, the jury gave the following verdict:—"We find that the deceased died from starvation and exposure to the cold, and the want of the common necessaries of life; and that there has been great and culpable neglect on the part of some of the officers connected with the administration of the poor-laws at Southampton, in not receiving the deceased into the workhouse, and providing proper lodging and nourishment on the nights of Friday and Saturday, of last week; but no sufficient evidence doth appear to the said jury, as to who are the parties actually blameable." The board of guardians, with the mayor in the chair, have held an investigation into the conduct of Simmonds, the officer who rejected the woman from the workhouse door. Witnesses deposed to hearing him refuse her the relief ordered by the surgeon, and tell her that "there was nothing for her that night but the tramp-house." The guardians resolved to indict him, and had him arrested and brought before the bench of magistrates. Evidence of his drunkenness was then adduced, and he was remanded. In the meantime, Simmonds, and some other of the poor-house officials, have been dismissed by the guardians.

Another case of *Death from Destitution*, attended with circumstances of alleged official neglect, has occurred at Manchester. Mary Hunter, a woman who gained a scanty livelihood by selling apples, &c., was taken ill with pain in her side on Saturday week. She lodged in the kitchen of Mrs. M'Donough, a woman nearly as poor as herself, and slept on the flagged floor, with but a few flocks between her and the stones, and a piece of carpet for her sole covering; she was corpulent, however, and did not while well suffer acutely from cold. Mrs. M'Donough went for a medical man several times that day, but could not get one. On Sunday, the 30th ult., she got directions to put on a poultice; which was put on, without relief to the patient. On Monday the poor woman was dangerously ill, and consented that an order for the workhouse should be applied for; but Mr. Pierce, the relieving-officer, had moved his residence and could not be found for some time: he gave a note to Mr. Noble, the parish doctor; and the note was delivered, but "no one came that day." On Tuesday, Mr. Noble's assistant, Mr. Brown, came, and ordered a poultice; but said nothing about removal of the patient from the stone floor. He directed Mrs. M'Donough to come for medicine; she went, and was told she must fetch a bottle—no bottle would be given with the medicine; after further loss of time a bottle was got, and the medicine procured and administered—without relief. During Tuesday more poultices—without effect; more messages backwards and forwards to the relieving-officer and surgeon, with warnings that the woman would be dead by morning. Visits were made by the officer and surgeon late in the evening. On Wednesday the poor woman grew worse, and on Thursday morning she died. On a post-mortem examination, it appeared that she died of acute internal inflammation; and Mr. George Morley Harrison, surgeon, deposed that such a condition would, in the first instance, be produced by exposure to cold, and would subsequently be aggravated by the want of proper nourishment and other comforts. The Coroner's Jury returned a verdict of "Died from inflammation of the lungs, aggravated by exposure and lying in the place deserted;" and they expressed their unanimous opinion that there had been neglect on the part of the overseer and the medical man who visited the deceased; recommending that a copy of the depositions be forwarded to the Poor-law Board.

A third case of a similar kind has been discovered in the Metropolis. On the 1st inst., an inquest was held respecting the death of a middle-aged man who had *Died from Want and Exposure to the Cold.* It appeared that on the previous Friday morning, Mrs. Gibbs, residing in Tyndall Buildings, Gray's-inn Lane, was alarmed by hearing some person moaning in the cellar of the house, and found the deceased lying in a corner of the cellar, huddled up in a quantity of filth and dirt. He was insensible, and Mrs. Gibbs immediately obtained the assistance of several police-constables, who had him removed to Holborn workhouse. He was stripped and placed in hot blankets, and the usual remedies of ammonia and brandy were applied; but he never rallied, and died shortly afterwards. Two penny-pieces were found placed upon two ulcers on his legs, and a few pieces of stale bread were also discovered in his pockets. He had obtained admission to the cellar by the window which looked into the street. The coroner remarked that the cellar appeared to be in the same bad condition as before the cholera broke out; and that the parochial authorities ought to have the place thoroughly cleansed every week. The Jury returned a verdict of—"Death from exhaustion, caused by exposure to the cold, and the want of the common necessaries of life."

On the 2nd, Alexander M'Donald, a police constable, was *Accidentally Drowned*, whilst endeavouring, along with a brother constable, to cross the water of Leith, by a dam-dyke, in pursuit of a person accused of assault; his foot slipping on the ice with which the dyke had become incrusted, he fell into a deep pool below. His body was not recovered till several hours afterwards.

On Sunday, the 5th, the brig, Catherine Charlotte, sailed from South Shields for Barcelona, with a cargo of coals and iron, the crew consisting of the captain, mate, and nine other hands. At 10 o'clock on the morning of the 12th, when about 86 leagues up the Mediterranean, the brig sprung a leak; their course was then changed, and the pumps incessantly worked till Wednesday night, when they found themselves nearing St. Finane's Bay, in sight of the Skellig Lights, but the vessel so waterlogged as to be almost unmanageable. On Thursday morning, after 2 o'clock, five men launched a boat, leaving on board the captain, mate, and four other seamen (who they expected would soon follow them in the jolly-boat), and after 14 hours' rowing reached the western coast of Keel, near Cork, in so exhausted a state that one of them was not expected to survive the fatigue. He was, however, brought round after some care. When about four hours to sea, soon after day-light they perceived the vessel going down in the distance. The six who unwisely remained on board went down with the unfortunate brig.

Frost having set in during the early part of the month, the ice on the waters in the Parks was sufficiently strengthened to tempt thousands of sliders and skaters. The ice broke repeatedly, and many persons were immersed. On Sunday, the 6th, a young man was skating on the Serpentine, when the ice broke, and he was *Drowned.* He had been warned by an iceman not to venture on the part of the ice where he perished—the rash young man instantly glided into the very centre of the dangerous spot.—On Sunday the 13th, a large portion of the ice broke in the Victoria Park, Bethnal-green, and nearly a hundred people were plunged into the water. The scene was frightful; and when all had been pulled out that could be seen, it was feared that some persons had been lost under the ice.

A *Revolt in the Workhouse* of Barham Union, near Ipswich, broke out on the 6th and 7th. A great number of young men had recently entered, the farmers having discharged them at Christmas. They were riotously disposed; and though the dietary was not bad or deficient, they burst into the master's office and demanded more food. On his refusal they broke into the day-room, tore up the seats and the floor, and threw burning coals into the room beneath, which fortunately had a brick floor. After much more disturbance the master got a policeman; they seized the ringleader, but he was rescued. The rioters broke into the hall, and ate both their own breakfasts and those intended for the old men. They then entered the married women's ward. A posse of constables was now obtained, and some prisoners made. The women grew violent and smashed the windows. The military had been sent for, and a detachment of Lancers arrived from Ipswich. Their services, however, were not required, the police having succeeded in quelling the riot.

An accident, fortunately not serious in its results, occurred on the evening of the 7th at the residence of

W. O. Bigg, Esq., of Abbot's Leigh. There was a large party at the house, and during the night a "*German Tree*," about five feet high, with its branches covered with bon-bons and other Christmas presents, and lit with a number of small wax tapers, was introduced into the drawing-room for the younger members of the party. While leaning forward to take some toy from the tree, the light gauze overdress of one young lady, Miss Gordon, took fire, and blazed up in a most alarming manner. One of the lads present, whose quickness and presence of mind were far superior to his years, with much thought and decision threw down the young lady, and folding her in a rug that was luckily close by, put out the flame before it had done any serious damage beyond scorching her arms severely.

An Inquest was held on Tuesday the 8th, at Kempsey, on the body of a newly born male child, whose death was caused the previous day *from Exposure to the Cold*. The mother, Mary Ann Thompson, had been wandering in company with another mendicant about the country begging. On reaching Kempsey, the pains of labour suddenly came on, and she was delivered of an infant while lying on the snow in the turnpike road. Her companion immediately sought assistance at the Crown, and was told by Mrs. Webb to go to the relieving officer. The woman remained in the road full twenty minutes before she was removed, and from the evidence taken at the inquest, it appeared the poor creature did not receive that timely aid which her perils under the most ordinary circumstances would have met with. The jury returned the following verdict:—"That the child died from exposure to cold and want of proper attention at its birth; and the jury blame Mrs. Webb, the landlady of the Crown, for not giving prompt attention to the application made for assistance on behalf of the mother.

On the 11th, at Chatham, Ellen Bright, a girl of seventeen, known as the "Lion Queen," attached to the ménagerie of her uncle Mr. George Wombwell, was *Killed by a Tiger*. An inquest was held on her body. She had been in the habit of entering the dens several times daily for the last twelve months. On that evening she entered a den in which were a lion and a tiger; she had only been in two or three minutes when, the tiger being in her way, she struck it slightly with a small whip she carried in her hand. The beast growled as if in anger, and, crouching close to the bottom of the den, stretched out its paw as if at her leg or dress, causing the deceased to fall sideways against the cage; the animal at the same moment sprang at her, and, seizing her ferociously by the neck, inserted the teeth of the upper jaw in her chin, and in closing his mouth inflicted frightful injury in the throat with his fangs. He then appeared to change his position, making a second gripe across the throat of his victim. A keeper who was standing on the step of the den, armed with a whip, immediately rushed to her assistance; but the animal did not loose its hold until struck over the nose violently with an iron bar; and whilst the keeper held the animal, the unfortunate girl was removed from the cage, bleeding profusely, and life all but extinct. She was taken into one of the caravans, where she was immediately attended by two medical gentlemen who happened to be present at the time of the occurrence. She died in a few minutes after she was taken from the den, from the wounds and from the shock to the system. The Jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased was killed by a tiger whilst exhibiting in its den; and expressed a strong opinion against the practice of allowing persons to perform in a den with such animals.

On Friday the 11th, as Mr. Charles Godwin, mealman, of Somerton-mill, Oxon, was returning from Bicester market, he *met with his Death* by walking or slipping into one of the locks on the Oxford canal, a very short distance from his house. It seems the deceased borrowed a horse of his brother-in-law to go to Bicester, and called and left it on his return; and the nearest road to Mr. Godwin's mill being along the towing-path, and the night extremely dark, it is supposed he walked into the lock. When found, the next morning, his hat was on his head and his walking-stick in his hand.

A gentleman passing through New North Street, City Road, on the morning of the 12th, was observed to *Stagger and Fall to the Ground*, and being raised up by some bystanders, was conveyed into the house of a respectable tradesman; but appeared then to be dead, having been heard merely to groan two or three times after he fell. Mr. Coulton, a surgeon, resident in Clifton Street, presently attended, but found life quite extinct. On his person were found cards bearing his name and address, "Rev. Spencer Thornton, Wendover Vicarage," and various documents from which it was ascertained that he was son-in-law of a gentleman of the name of Dupree, whose town residence is in Portland Place. His coachman identified the body as that of the Rev. gentleman. It appeared that he had just come to London from his father's at Wood-hill, in Hertfordshire, and he was supposed to have been proceeding from the railway to Portland Place when he died in such an awfully sudden manner, the cause of death being conjectured by the medical gentleman to have been disease of the heart, although his friends in London did not appear to have been aware of his previously suffering from such a disease.

A woman named Rachel Riach, who lived in Glen Conglass, had gone to Tomantoul on the afternoon of Saturday the 12th, for meal and other household necessaries. She left Tomantoul in the twilight on her way home, which she never reached. The night was stormy; and the falling snow, and frequent gusts of wind drifting the snow, added to the darkness. The hapless woman soon lost her way, and wandered for hours among the moors and mosses that intervene between Tomantoul and Glen Conglass. About 10 o'clock p. m. her cries for help were heard by two lads, who followed the calls, but could not discover the perishing woman. They gave no alarm, and the poor woman was not missed till Sabbath afternoon, as her family thought, from the badness of the night, she might have remained in Tomantoul. Not returning with those who had gone to attend the places of worship in Tomantoul, alarm for her safety was instantly raised among the neighbours. Search was made in the village, and the body was found frozen and lifeless, only a few hundred yards from a house. The bag with the meal, and a pail containing groceries, were lying near her.

On the night of Monday, the 14th, *A Fire, attended with Dreadful Loss of Life*, took place in Killarney. It broke out in a portion of the building formerly known as the College, but for months past used by the guardians of the poor as a workhouse hospital. The inmates were, with much difficulty, saved from the fire; and the building was reduced to a ruin in two hours. Scarcely had the fire in this portion of the building been suppressed before it broke out in another portion called the Brewery, and used as the dormitory of a multitude of children. The doors and windows were fastened; and the only ready access was by a loft through which the flames were already pouring. The police and multitudes of assistants made extraordinary efforts to drag forth every one of the children, and their nurses; but when they had nearly performed their perilous task, the rafters of the loft gave way; and twenty-eight persons were instantly killed, and as many more frightfully mutilated.

A distressing accident, resulting from the *Incautious Use of Fire-arms*, occurred at Walsall on the 14th. A youth about fifteen or sixteen years of age, son of Mr. Swanwick, relieving officer, was on a visit with a relation, of that place, and in the morning went out with two or three young companions to shoot birds. On their return home, two of them put their unloaded guns in the corner of a room, and shortly afterwards the third put his gun with the others; but unhappily this one was loaded. The young men were soon after playing with the servant-maid; and Swanwick, laying hold of one of the guns, and under the impression that they were all unloaded, presented it at her, and said he would shoot her. Thinking to frighten her, he pulled the trigger and fired; when, in an instant, the poor girl dropped dead at his feet.

On the night of Tuesday, the 15th, Edward Hurley, of Ballinahinch, near Knocklong, in the county of Limerick, was *Murdered* in his own house; in the presence of his wife and five children. Hurley and his family, after rising from prayers, directed his son to look after the cattle before they retired to rest. The boy proceeded to

the door; and upon opening it, observed an armed man outside. The fellow told Hurley's son to go back, and with the muzzle of the gun, forced him to the centre of the dwelling; when his father, mother, brothers, and sisters, promptly assailed the intruder, who was repulsed; but, as Hurley was locking the door, the ruffian fired from without; the ball entering his left eye, carried away the upper part of his skull; and the victim fell dead on the spot.

A *Dreadful Explosion of Naphtha* took place about six o'clock, on the evening of the 17th, on the premises of Mr. Moffett, 61, John Street, Tottenham Court Road, which resulted in the death of a youth named Moore; and the serious injury of a younger brother. They were alone in the shop at the time. It was very dark; and the deceased was going to fill the lamp, which usually burnt naphtha. The deceased held the can which contained the naphtha, and the lamp in the other hand. His brother stood at his side, with a lighted match in his hand, while the deceased was pouring the spirit into the lamp; he drew the lamp close to the light, and the spirit immediately exploded.

Mr. Robert Rouse, of Walham Green, surgeon, who had been in practice nearly thirty years, destroyed himself by *Swallowing Prussic Acid*, on Friday the 25th. Not making his appearance as usual in the morning; he was found dead in his bed, with the empty phial on a table near him. Of late he had suffered severely from illness; and was constantly saying he must come to the workhouse. During the prevalence of the cholera, he had exerted himself very much; and on its subsidence wrote a very intelligent report on the sanitary state of Fulham parish.

Mr. Joseph Ivon Winstanly, aged fifty-eight, an outfitter of No. 54, King William Street, London Bridge, committed *Suicide* on the 29th. The day previous he called at the shop of Mr. Buckle, chemist, in Leadenhall Street and purchased sixpennyworth of the essential oil of almonds, which he said he wanted to scent pomatum with. It was of the greatest strength, and consisted of thirty drops. He was found dead, with the empty bottle in his pocket. Depression of mind, arising from his business not prospering, is supposed to have occasioned the act. A verdict of "temporary insanity" was returned at the inquest.

Buchanan house, the seat of the Duke of Montrose on the shores of Loch Lomond, was *Totally Destroyed by Fire* on the night of the 26th. Much valuable property was lost, but the pictures and the principal family records were preserved

The Tide Rose to a great Height in the Thames on Tuesday the 29th. On Monday the water had been unusually low, so that at some parts it would have been possible to walk across. About three o'clock, p.m., on Tuesday, the stream began to flow higher than ordinary, and eventually it stood two feet one inch higher than in the destructive flood of Oct. 1844. Some damage was done at Woolwich Dockyard, the water getting into the building docks and saw-pits. At Charlton the houses were flooded. Wharfs and streets on the low-lying parts of London were inundated. In Lambeth, Vauxhall, Battersea, Fulham, Bermondsey, and other places, the streets became rivers, cellars and kitchens were filled with water, and the destruction or damage of property was very serious. The Temple gardens were covered with water for a time. It does not appear that any one was drowned, though some children narrowly escaped.

An inquest was held on the 31st at the Middlesex Hospital, on the body of Mrs. Elizabeth Mitchell, aged 35 years, the wife of Mr. Mitchell, the proprietor of the Crown public-house, at the corner of Broad-street, Golden-square. The deceased, while labouring under *Delirium Tremens*, leaped from a second-floor window into the yard, a distance of 30 feet, and sustained some dreadful injuries in the fall. She died on the 29th at the above-mentioned hospital. The jury returned a verdict of "Death from *delirium tremens*; but whether the deceased jumped from the window with a suicidal intent, or not, there was not sufficient evidence to prove."

A *Fire* of agricultural buildings and produce took place at the homestead of Mr. Smith of Girton, near Cambridge, apparently the work of an incendiary, though Mr. Smith has the character of being a kind and spirited employer of the poor. The labourers, accordingly, exerted themselves to subdue the flames, but without success. The fire arose in the eye of a high wind, and had risen uncontrollably high even before discovered. Eight fine horses, three bullocks, two calves, twelve cows and heifers, twenty-seven pigs, and a large quantity of poultry, were consumed. The cries and moans of the poor animals, which were beyond the reach of human aid, were frightful. The yard-dog succeeded in saving himself by an almost supernatural effort; for he made off with his kennel (a very heavy one) at his heels, and was afterwards found at some distance. The damage done to Mr. Smith's property was about 2000*l.*, but he was fully insured. Mrs. Carter, an aged person whose cottage was burnt, has lost the whole of her furniture and clothes.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

IN pursuance of directions from the Commissioners of *Baths and Wash-houses* for the parishes of St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster, several houses in Ann Street and Peter Street were sold by auction, for the purpose of being removed to form the site on which it is intended to erect baths and wash-houses for that district. There are to be 60 baths, and as many washing and ironing departments. There will also be two plunging-baths, each above 40 feet in length, and from about 4 feet to 5 feet 8 inches in depth. The Commissioners have purchased the area for the building, and will be empowered by the Select Vestry to borrow 9500*l.* to carry the object into effect.

The Gazette of the 4th contains the names of the Royal "Commission for the promotion of the *Exhibition of the Works of all Nations*, to be holden in the year 1851." They are—Prince Albert, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Rosse, Earl Granville, the Earl of Ellesmere, Lord Stanley, Lord John Russell, Sir Robert Peel, Henry Labouchere, William Ewart Gladstone, Sir Archibald Galloway or the Chairman of the Court of Directors of the East India Company for the time being, Sir Richard Westmacott, Sir Charles Lyell or the President of the Geological Society for the time being, Thomas Baring, Charles Barry, Thomas Bazley, Richard Cobden, William Cubitt, or the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers for the time being, Charles Lock Eastlake, Thomas Field Gibson, John Gott, Samuel Jones Loyd, Philip Pusey, and William Thompson. Secretary, John Scott Russell. The Commission orders an inquiry as to the best mode for introducing the productions of Colonies and foreign countries, the best site, the general conduct of the exhibition, and the distribution of the prizes. The following gentlemen are appointed an "Executive Committee."—Henry Cole, Charles Wentworth Dilke, jun., George Drew, Francis Fuller, and Robert Stephenson. Secretary, Matthew Digby Wyatt.

The College of Preceptors held its half-yearly meeting on the 5th, at the Institution in Bloomsbury Square; Dr. Hodgson of Manchester in the chair. The financial report showed that the receipts and debts for the year make a total of 1565*l.*; the payments and debts due from the College, 922*l.* Dr. Wilson, the Dean, read the report of the results of the examinations, and certificates were presented to the twenty candidates who had passed. Amongst these were two ladies, who obtained great credit for the manner in which they had gone through an examination in history and the classics. The Corporation then revised some by-laws.

The expediency of the adoption, in banking, of *the Scotch System of Cash Credits*, was discussed at the half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of the London and Westminster Bank, on the 16th. The practice in question is this:—A bank agrees to advance to a particular person, a sum within specified limits, to be drawn for as needed; security for repayment being provided by a bond bearing the names of the person for whose use the money is to be advanced, and of two and sometimes three other persons, who join as sureties. Two objections to the adoption of this plan were stated: first, that the bank-note system does not hold in London; and

second, that the people of London do not know each other sufficiently well to induce them to join in bonds involving liabilities which might extend over many years. The chairman remarked, that the experiment was now under trial by the Royal British Bank; and that, if it proved successful, there was nothing to prevent the London and Westminster from following the example. A dividend of 6 per cent. was declared; and, as showing the greater certainty which prevails in bill transactions, it was mentioned that the 70,000*l.* of loss incurred in the disastrous year of 1847 had now been entirely wiped off.

A further important step has just been taken at the Post Office, towards *the Reduction of Sunday Duties*, and this time in the London district. Hitherto, in the suburbs of London, there has always been a delivery on the Sunday morning of letters and newspapers despatched from St. Martin's-le-Grand on the Saturday night; but under the new arrangement these will be delivered at a late hour on Saturday night at all places within six miles of St. Martin's-le-Grand, and the Sunday morning's delivery at such places will be abolished. This plan, which came into operation on the 29th ult., combined with another for abolishing certain cross-posts, has released from Sunday duties 191 men in the London district.

A public meeting of persons connected with the *Tailoring Trade* in the metropolis, was held on the 17th, in the large room at Exeter Hall. The object of the meeting, which consisted of upwards of 2,000 persons, was to consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament in reference to the present slop and "middle" system, which, it was stated, injured the fair trader as well as the working-people. Several working tailors addressed the meeting, one of whom stated that he had been employed by Moses and Son for several years past as a confidential man at the rate of 1*d.* per hour, and expressed his regret that with 400,000*l.* per annum, the Marquis of Westminster dealt with that establishment. Another speaker observed, that it was very well known that the working-men engaged in making clothing for the Government establishments, the Post-office, the Custom-house, and for the soldiers and police, did not get more than 1*s.*, or at most 1*s.* 6*d.* a day; and a third speaker declared, that for making a coat for a first-rate master tailor, patronised by the Duke of Wellington and other aristocratic customers, he had only received 5*s.*, out of which sum he had to pay for candlelight and trimmings. Resolutions and a petition to Parliament were agreed to, denouncing the slop and middle-men systems, and praying for the enactment of a law compulsory on employers to have their work done on their own premises.

A meeting was held at the Mansion House on the 25th, to raise funds for the next year's *Exhibition of* 1851. The Lord Mayor presided, and it was attended by a number of leading men in the City; also by Lord John Russell, Mr. Labouchere, and Earl Granville. Mr. W. Cotton expressed a hope that not the opulent only, but the whole people, would come forward according to their means, and make the Exposition what Mr. Jones Loyd designated the great Olympian festival of modern times. Lord John Russell advocated the movement. It was resolved to make arrangements for raising the funds on a scale commensurate with the importance of the occasion. The subscriptions announced amounted to upwards of 10,000*l.*; and include 1000*l.* from the Queen, 500*l.* from Prince Albert, 100*l.* each from the Premier and six colleagues, and several sums of 500*l.* from leading members of the great banking and commercial firms.

From *the Returns of the Specie and Bullion imported during the last year* from the gold countries of South and North America, and the Atlantic and Mediterranean ports of Southern Europe and Northern Africa, it appears that the West Indian packets have brought 4,648,270*l.*, the produce of the mines of California, Mexico, Central America, and the Pacific States of South America. Of this amount, it is estimated that about 400,000*l.* in gold has come from California, direct or viâ Lima and Valparaiso, where much California dust is melted into ingots for England. The Peninsular and Oriental steam-packets have brought—from Alexandria, 728,857*l.* "gold and silver coin;" from Constantinople, 933,510*l.* "gold and silver;" from Spain and Portugal, 310,000*l.* Total of the year, 6,788,655*l.*

The *Returns of the Board of Trade* for the month ending the 5th December, show an increase in the exports of 374,993*l.* over the corresponding month of 1848; a result the more satisfactory, since the exports of December 1848 were not less than 132,346*l.* more valuable than those of December 1847. The chief items of increase have been manufactures of cotton, flax, wool, and silk, hardware goods, metals, and leather. The instances of marked decrease are cotton-yarn, machinery, and soap. The entire increase in exports during the first eleven months of the year 1849, as compared with the corresponding months of 1848, is now 9,681,897*l.*; the totals respectively being 44,407,912*l.* and 54,089,809*l.* The import returns show a large increase under the head of grain, provision-meats, cocoa, eggs, (from 4,471,718*l.* to 5,475,673*l.*,) and tea; also an increasing consumption of sugar, though the imports somewhat declined. Both the import and the consumption of flour and of coffee had declined. Tobacco imports had largely increased.

The plan of a *Submarine Electric Telegraph* between England and France is about to be proceeded with. The concession signed by Louis Napoleon and the Minister of the Interior, M. Dufaure, granting to Messrs. J. Brett, Toché, and Co., the right to establish an electric telegraph line between France and England by a submarine communication across the channel, arrived in town on the 31st ult. The company propose to establish, by means of the electric telegraph, an instant communication between the two countries. The patentee guarantees that this telegraph shall, by the aid of a single wire, and of two persons only (the one stationed in France, and the other in England), be capable of printing, in clear Roman type (on paper) 100 messages, of fifteen words each, including addresses and signatures, all ready for delivery in 100 consecutive minutes.

The Summaries of *The State of Trade and Industry* in the United Kingdom during the past year, given in the leading provincial journals, exhibit satisfactory and promising results. The *Manchester Examiner* states, that "the activity of the manufactures in the West Riding of Yorkshire, is perhaps without parallel in the history of that thriving district." The *Manchester Guardian* affirms that, in Lancashire, the transactions have been of great magnitude, and that "the average rise of prices by the end of the year was not less than 10 per cent. on goods, or than 8 per cent. on yarns." The large profits on coarse yarns and goods in 1844, 1845, and 1846, induced an excessive production, which has made that branch the single exception to the prosperity of the past year. The evil is correcting itself; coarse stocks are exhausted, and many makers have turned their spindles and looms to the making of finer yarns and fabrics. A drawback from the prosperity of 1850 was anticipated from the scarcity of raw cotton; but the discovery of an error of nearly 100,000 bales in the estimated stock, one-sixth of the whole, has considerably lightened the weight of this anticipation. In Scotland, says the *Dundee Mercantile Gazette*, "the linen trade has been as satisfactory, in almost all its branches, as could be desired:"—"every hand-loom weaver willing to work has been busily employed;"—"our linens can be laid down in Germany as cheap as in Liverpool;"—"foreign merchants in Hamburgh find it for their advantage to buy Dundee linens from the Hamburgh dealers, instead of those of German manufacturers." In the North of Ireland, the *Northern Whig* of Belfast says—"All the manufacturing classes are better off than for many a year;"—"there is full employment to hand-loom weavers" at "wages increased from 10 to 15 per cent.," and to "an immense number of women and girls" in the sewed-muslin business, at "wages advanced 40 or 50 per cent." In the iron trade, upon view of the whole operations both in the raw and manufactured material, there has been a great business at improved prices. In the ship-building trade, a depression visible at the beginning of the year is passing away: Messrs. Tonge, Curry, and Co., of Liverpool, say, in their trade circular—"During the last two months, more contracts have been made, and more keels laid down, than we were prepared to expect;" the number

of vessels—eight vessels, of 2800 tons aggregate burden—now building at Liverpool, "is not under the average number." The moderate prices held for some time past by all the articles of food-consumption, have induced an increased consumption throughout the country; and the increase of consumption has in its turn raised to their natural position in the wholesale market some articles which special influences had depressed to panic prices.

The Hospital attached to the medical school of *King's College* has been placed in permanent connexion with the College itself. At a special meeting of the Governors of the Hospital, on the 29th ult., it was resolved to abrogate the thirty-fifth rule, vesting the funds of the institution in trustees, and further, "that the site of the Hospital, together with all the property belonging to it, shall vest in the corporation of King's College, London, for the purposes of the Hospital." This amalgamation has been effected with a view to facilitate the measures now in active progress for carrying out the project of a new and regularly endowed hospital. The subscription towards the fund of 50,000*l.* for the new building and endowments, in the short time since the Council of the College took the matter in hand, has risen to nearly 21,000*l.*

The Financial Returns of the country, to the 5th instant, present very satisfactory results. Notwithstanding the replacement on the 1st of February, 1848, of the last sliding-scale of duties on corn by a nominal duty, and the reduction of the sugar duties on the 5th of July, the decrease on the Customs, as compared with the Customs of the quarter ending January 5, 1849, is little more than 40,000*l.* On the Excise there is an increase of about 36,000*l.*, and on the Stamps of about 40,000*l.*; both showing resuscitated enterprise, full employment, and wages more than sufficient for the necessaries of life. On the assessed taxes there will be a decrease of about 20,000*l.*; and in the Post-office a trifling increase. In the Excise there is a decrease of about 89,000*l.*, arising wholly from the postponement of the hop duty. The Stamps show an increase of about 257,000*l.*; the assessed taxes, a decrease of 9,000*l.*, and the property tax, an increase of about 65,000*l.*—a sum which represents additional income to the amount of 2,200,000*l.* per annum, and, at 5 per cent., an additional capital of 44,000,000*l.* From the beginning of the financial year to the end of December, including a period of nearly nine months, the expenditure of the United Kingdom fell short of that in the corresponding period of the previous year by no less a sum than 3,340,000*l.* This is made up out of the following items:—To the reduction on the interest of Exchequer Bills we owe a difference of nearly 150,000*l.*; to the reduced expenditure in the army we owe nearly 540,000*l.*; to the same process in the navy nearly 1,300,000*l.*; in the ordnance about 740,000*l.*, and in the services provided for by the miscellaneous estimates nearly 300,000*l.* Since April 5, there has been no fresh grant for Irish distress, whereas in the corresponding period of the previous financial year, there was expended on this account 272,382*l.* In other items there is an aggregate difference of about 70,000*l.* in our favour. The Treasury, however, does not yet derive the full benefit of this sum of 3,340,000*l.*; for, owing to the advances by way of loan under various British and Irish acts, which nearly double the repayment of advances during the last nine months, the actual reduction of expenditure during that period amounts to about two millions and a half.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Queen and Prince Albert, with their children, personally witnessed the distribution of her Majesty's *New Year's Gift* of food and raiment to the poor of Windsor. The distribution took place in the Riding-school of the Castle. The presents consisted of a handsome quantity of blankets, flannel, and calico, of meat, bread, and plum-pudding, and of coals, distributed to all the deserving poor in the parishes of Windsor and Clewer, as indicated in a list by the ladies of the District Visiting Society. A number of the clergy were present. The poor people manifested respectful gratitude.

On New Year's Eve, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress gave a *Juvenile Entertainment*, in the Mansion House, to several hundreds of the young children of the citizens. The company entered the Egyptian Hall at about seven, and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress themselves led off a country-dance with a young partner each. At ten o'clock the amusements were varied by the introduction of Mr. Love the polyphonist; who, from a stage erected for him in one corner of the room, delighted and mystified the young people with his clever ventriloquisms. At eleven the parents of the children arrived, and assumed a wise control at the sumptuous supper-table. After supper, dancing was resumed till near twelve. When the hour of midnight began t strike, the lights waned simultaneously, in signification of the departing year; when twelve o'clock had struck the lights again sprang up, and the hall was in its former blaze of illumination. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress seated themselves at the upper end of the hall, and shook each young couple by the hand as they passed; a courtesy they acknowledged with wishes of a "happy new year."

Lord Brougham has been passing his time, in his retirement, at Cannes, in philosophical pursuits. A letter from that place dated the 19th, says, "Lord Brougham has been making some interesting experiments on light here, which are just terminated. At eleven o'clock at night on the 14th inst., four members of the Royal Society of London gave to our population a ravishing spectacle; at the top of the towers of the Noble Lord the apparatus of the electric light was placed, and at the same instant a luminous point shone from the Ile Sainte Marguerite, and its brilliant rays displayed to all eyes the beauty of that enchanting site. The same rays were afterwards directed on the magnificent scenery of the Cap-Roux, and on the picturesque roadstead of Agai. The *coup d'œil* at such an hour was so beautiful, that applause suddenly broke forth from all parts. The next day Lord Brougham, in the midst of a numerous and chosen circle, gave a detailed and very interesting account of his experiments on light."

At a meeting of the York, Newcastle and Berwick Railway Company at York on the 1st instant, the settlement of the company's *Claims on Mr. Hudson*, their late chairman, came on for discussion. The chairman said that legal proceedings had been commenced, two bills in equity having been filed; but propositions had been made by the friends of Mr. Hudson, and the directors had taken legal opinions which recommended a compromise with Mr. Hudson, on the following terms: Mr. Hudson had undertaken to pay in all to the company the sum of 100,000*l.*, he (Mr. Hudson) having, during the past year, paid to the company no less than 90,036*l.*, and Mr. Hudson would further pay the expenses the company had been put to in the matter. After some sharp discussion the compromise was agreed to.

Mr. Hudson has at length come forward to defend himself from the charges made against him in regard to his *Railway Transactions*. He has published a letter stating the pith of his justifications in the several matters of—1. The Brandling Junction Railway, and the Newcastle and Berwick Railway; 2. The Sunderland Docks; 3. The purchase of his own iron rails for the York, Newcastle, and Berwick Company. On the first head, he says the shares were voted to him in public meeting, for services previously rendered, and then thought valuable. On the second, he says that his Newcastle and Berwick Railway shares were original shares in the company of which he was the originator, and for which he was responsible. The Sunderland Dock shares were taken by him with two other directors, for the direct benefit of the York, Newcastle, and Berwick Company. It is not denied that in this he exceeded the legal authority reposed in the Directors: parliamentary sanction was, no doubt, necessary, as in all former cases, "where the Directors had not shrunk from this description of responsibility, when it was important that delay should be avoided." "The Company has ratified the purchase of some West Durham Railway shares taken by me in a similar manner, and

with the same absence of authority; the only difference being, that it has now been thought advantageous for the Company to retain these shares. On the third point, he says he purchased iron largely in October, 1844, when the Company was not in existence, but when iron was low: "like any other man," he was "surely entitled to the enhanced worth of his own iron." The tenders for the iron were open and public; and Messrs. Thompson and Forman, in furnishing iron partly out of their own stock and partly out of that which they held for him, did not in anywise affect the price. "In conclusion," says Mr. Hudson, "I would observe, that I am aware that transactions have occurred which are to be regretted; but in respect to which it is some consolation to me to reflect that the Company have in no instance sustained pecuniary loss. Allow me to ask you to review those transactions with some remembrance of the excited period in which they occurred—of the multiplicity of concerns which I had to superintend and direct—of the brief opportunities I had for reflection—and of the impossibility of my giving sufficient attention to the public duties and private matters which then claimed my attention."

Accounts of great interest have arrived from the Pacific, in reference to the expedition in search of *Sir John Franklin*. From Mazatlan, under date the 24th of November, we learn the arrival at that port on the 13th of Her Majesty's ship Herald, Captain Kellatt, and also that of the British yacht Nancy Dawson, Captain Bill, with intelligence from Her Majesty's ship Plover at Behring's Straits. We learn that the relief ship had previously penetrated as far as 73 deg. 10 min. N. latitude, in search of Sir J. Franklin; and in company with the yacht named, the Plover's boats also penetrated along a vast extent of the coast of North America, extending from Behring's Straits to the mouth of the Mackenzie River, the scene of Sir J. Richardson's exit into the northern seas during the late expedition. It appears that no traces of the missing navigators were discovered; and it is stated that the boats of the Plover consequently determined, in accordance with their instructions, to winter on the spot, attempting to reach one of the nearest traders' stations in the vicinity. The private schooner-yacht then returned, her light draught having previously enabled her to explore in company with the boats, and with the Plover re-entered Behring's Straits from the north; there the Plover took up her winter quarters, and subsequently the Herald and Nancy Dawson returned to Mazatlan. The commander of the Plover, it is stated, entertained great hopes of Sir John Franklin's safety, although we are not informed of the grounds upon which that expectation is based. It is to be regretted that the advices received are in a measure indefinite; and it is still more mournful to learn that the owner of the yacht which was so nobly conducted along the Arctic coast from the promptings of a philanthropic spirit, should have subsequently closed his career at Mazatlan. It is stated that he had previously been engaged in a tour round the world, and suddenly altered his course to aid in the search for Franklin's ships. The yacht had been put in charge of a sailing-master from one of Her Majesty's ships at Mazatlan, and will be despatched home by the British Consul. From New York we learn also some details of interest in reference to Sir John Franklin. Letters had been received by influential individuals in that city from Lady Franklin, desiring advice and information from the person to whom they were addressed, as to the expediency of her visiting New York to arrange an expedition, at her own expense, for the renewal of the search for her lost husband next spring. Lady Franklin is described as meditating the purchase of two small vessels with that aim.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

THE HON. MRS. OTWAY CAVE, widow of the late Hon. Robert Otway Cave, and eldest daughter of the late Sir Francis Burdett Bart., died in Dublin on the 30th ult.

M. QUATREMERE DE QUINCY, member of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres, perpetual honorary secretary of the Académie des Beaux Arts, and senior member of the Institute of France, has lately died in his 95th year.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL IRVINE, C.B., of the East India Company's service, chief director of engineering and architectural works of the Admiralty, died on the 29th ult. at his residence, Highgate. Colonel Irvine's career was an arduous and most distinguished one. He served in many sieges and storms, in which he was severely wounded, and personally led one or two forlorn-hopes. As a military engineer his talents were highly prized in India.

THE PRINCESS CAROLINE HENRIETTA, mother of the reigning Prince of Reuss-Schleiz, died on the 24th ult., at the age of 89.

SIR DAVID DICKSON, M.D., Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets died on the 9th, at his residence, Durnford Street, Stonehouse, in the 70th year of his age. He was surgeon of the Brakel in the expedition to Egypt in 1801.

LIEUTENANT WAGHORN, R.N., the gallant pioneer of the overland route, died at his residence, Golden Terrace, Pentonville, on the 8th, in the 49th year of his age. Mr. Waghorn had returned only on Christmas day from Malta, where he had been residing a short time for the benefit of his health, which had been considerably impaired by anxiety and harass of mind, arising chiefly from pecuniary engagements contracted in his prosecution of the Trieste experiments in 1846, and which liabilities the devotion of all his means and the sacrifice of his entire property were inadequate to liquidate. Independent of the main incident of his history in connection with the Indian enterprise, that has immortalised his name as one of the greatest practical benefactors of the age, his career has been most extraordinary, full of the strangest vicissitudes, and abounding in evidences of character in every way worthy of enduring commemoration. Of the pension lately awarded to him by Government he lived to receive only one quarter's payment.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR JAMES MALCOLM, K.C.B., of the Royal Marines, died on the 3rd, at his seat, Minholm, Dumfriesshire, at the age of 82. He was second son of Mr. G. Malcolm, of Burnfoot, and elder brother of Admiral Sir C. Malcolm. He entered the Royal Marines at the early age of thirteen.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL NICOL, C.B., died at Clifton on the 6th. He served with distinction throughout the Peninsular war, and afterwards in India, in the Nepaul war, when he commanded a division of the army under Sir David Ochterlony.

MRS. BARTLEY, formerly Miss Smith, the celebrated tragedian, died on the 14th in her 65th year.

MADAME GRASSINI, the once celebrated Italian singer, died lately at Milan, aged 77. She was the aunt of Giulietta Grisi.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

A NEW metropolitan association for the reform of Colonial Government challenges unusual attention at the opening of the year, from the fact that it comprises leading men of all parties not absolutely engaged in office. Its object is to obtain for all the colonies the most ample powers of local self-government, to secure them in such rights as the disposal of their own waste lands, and to protect them in framing or altering at pleasure the local constitution of each colony.

Such news as meanwhile we receive from the colonies themselves appears to exhibit a somewhat large field for the exertions of the new society. The settlers of the Cape still resist the admission of convicts, and Western Australia has pronounced hardly less unreservedly against the proffered boon of convict labour. The West Indies groan as loudly as usual, the Canadians are clamouring for "an independant union" of all the British North American provinces, and New Zealand insists upon the promised constitution which its new governor has hitherto thought it right to withhold.

The news from India is limited to a rumour of disturbances on the frontier of Peshawur, which receives importance from the accompanying statement that a distinguished officer had been ordered with a

considerable force "including artillery" to march to reduce it. It is said to be connected with "the tyranny of tax-collectors"—a fruitful source of rebellion.

The *Overland Mail* has brought news from Bombay to the 17th, from Calcutta to the 7th December, and from Hongkong to the 30th November. From Bombay information is brought that more plotting against our rule by the fugitive Ranee has been discovered; agents had been tampering with our troops, and thus had, as in many late instances, been delivered into the hands of the authorities by the honest native subalterns. The young Maharajah had been sent under strong guard to Futtehghur. The chieftains whose arrest for plottings in higher regions were mentioned in late accounts, were to be sent to Calcutta, there to remain under surveillance for life. The Governor-general was on his way down the Indus, and would be at Moultan on the 13th or 14th instant; Lady Dalhousie was coming home ill, and her husband proposed to accompany her as far as Suez. From Calcutta there is an account of personal adventures of two of our officers, which have ended in their imprisonment by the rajah of Sikkim. Dr. Campbell, the British resident of Darjeeling, a station near the Thibetian frontier of Bengal, and Dr. Hooker, a botanist, son of Sir William Hooker, went on a botanical exploration over the Thibetian frontier, and were arrested by the Tartar authorities; they were sent under guard to the rajah of Sikkim, whom the Tartars hold responsible for the sacredness of their frontier. The rajah sent word to our resident at Darjeeling, that he would keep his prisoners in custody till he obtained satisfaction for grievances he had been writing about to our Government for three years past; he was answered with a demand for the prisoners instanter, and with advice to rely on the impartiality of the Governor-general for justice. Meanwhile, the captives were treated with great personal cruelty.

From *Hongkong* the only news of interest relates to the expedition, consisting of the Phlegethon and Fury war-steamers, and the Columbine frigate, under Commander J. C. D. Hay, against the pirate Shapng-tsai, which set out from Hongkong on the 1st of November, just before the last accounts were despatched. The pirate fleet had retreated to Hainan, and thence to the Bay of Tonquin; the chief trusting to his knowledge of the difficult waters. On the 17th November our ships fell in with one of his look-out vessels; she took to the shallows, but was disabled by the Phlegethon's guns, and then pursued and destroyed in the shallows by the Phlegethon's boats. On the 20th, the pirate fleet was discovered in the mouth of a river twelve miles beyond Hoo-nong. It consisted of a large junk mounting 42 guns, commanded by Shapng-tsai himself, and sixty-three other war-junks mounting armaments ranging from 34 guns down to 6 guns; the whole force afloat being some 1224 guns and 3150 men. Our fleet was steered into the river by a pilot who had escaped from the shore. In forty minutes our three ships were all engaged; in another hour the fire of the enemy had been silenced; and before eight p.m., twenty-seven junks were in flames and nearly all the rest cut off from retreat. Upwards of 1000 pirates deserted their ships and took to some islands, and were there attacked by the natives whose villages they had ravaged. Next day, twenty-four more junks were destroyed. In the end, only six of the smallest junks escaped, with the pirate chief himself on board, and these the mandarins declared they would shortly destroy. Our fleet was assisted by a small force of junks, despatched under a mandarin, Major-general Hwang, by the Governor-general Ho; and it is stated that he distinguished himself by his courageous and intelligent command.

The *Jamaica* House of Assembly have passed a bill, for one year, giving the Governor a salary of 4500*l.*; and at the same time a memorial has been transmitted to the Queen, praying her to relieve the island of this heavy expense, and requesting that it may be paid from England as is done in some other islands. This bill is a renewal of a previous bill, also for one year, which expired on the 31st of December last. Another bill has been brought in to raise a revenue, by a duty on imports, to pay the interest of the island debt. A petition was getting up against it, to be sent to the Council, should it pass the House. The island was healthy, but business was very dull.

In *Barbados* a Public Meeting to promote an extension of the franchise had been held, and resulted in the formation of a committee in furtherance of that object. Two anti-slavery meetings had been held, the first called by the Lord Bishop, the Chief Justice, the President of the Council, and Speaker of the House of Assembly. This meeting adopted a petition to the Imperial Parliament, praying for the enforcement of the treaties with foreign Powers. The second meeting was called to afford a deputation from the Anti-Slavery Society of England an opportunity of addressing the people. These meetings were well attended, the speakers consisting of white, black, and coloured persons. The weather was highly propitious for the ensuing crop. A much larger yield of sugar was expected than in 1849. The corn and provision crops were good and abundant, with the exception of the yams, which had again been destroyed by blight.

Advices from the *Cape of Good Hope*, which are to the 16th of November, state that in answer to innumerable petitions to send the convicts away, without waiting for the receipt of the order to do so from England, the Governor said that he would not commit an act so illegal, impolitic, and of dangerous example. The persons who, in defiance to the Anti-convict Association and the pledge, had furnished supplies to the government officials and the military, had lost all their customers. Some of them had intimated to the newspapers, and especially to the South African Advertiser, that actions for damages were to be brought against them. In one instance the damages were laid at 500*l.*

The accounts from *Canada* state that the Government had dismissed seventeen Magistrates from the commission of the peace, as having been parties to the address for annexation to the United States. Sixteen of these persons were men of station in Montreal; two of them —Mr. Jacob de Witt and Mr. Benjamin Holmes—members of the Colonial Parliament. Mr. Holmes had replied to the official notification of his dismissal with the resignation of his place as member of the commission for the management of roads, an office he filled with much advantage to the community

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News from *Western Australia* have been received to the middle of November. The Swan River settlement had been thrown into great excitement by the official announcement that the colony had been converted into a penal colony from June 1849, without the countervailing boon of a protective force and parliamentary grant, which had been tacitly calculated on as certain accompaniments of the convicts. The journals inveigh with much warmth against the trick by which they have suffered; and express great indignation at the loathsome contamination of their shores which the Colonial Office purposes.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

An interesting letter from Mrs. Chisholm, on the subject of *Family Colonisation*, has been published. It contains the following observations:—"There is one fact I feel most anxious to impress upon the minds of all who are interested in the amelioration of the poor by means of emigration, viz., that their emigrating to Australia improves under ordinary prudence the circumstances of the individuals, and, if they conduct themselves with propriety, raises their position in society. With young women the greatest caution is necessary in this respect, for their opportunities of doing well and advancing themselves by marriage

in the colonies are much greater than in England; indeed, as regards the working classes, the advantages in this way bear no comparison. Emigration gives to every man, who by character likes to try for it, a certain position in the community which he could not arrive at in this country; every office, I may say, is open to him; and, if he is by education unfit to forward his interest in this way, he at least can by rectitude of conduct gain a station which will enable him to give his children every advantage. We have not in our colonies the titles that in this country give importance to a name—we have not old baronial castles to appeal to our feelings of national pride in behalf of the owners; consequently men look to men through a more equalising standard, and if one man is to be raised above another, it is by mutual consent; the suffrages of the people and character become there, in a more especial manner, the ladder by which an ambitious man must rise. Bearing in mind what has struck me on this subject, I have always, in giving advice to a poor man wishing to emigrate, looked more to the position his children were likely to gain, than to any immediate advantages to himself. Since my arrival in England, a poor man came to me, having three daughters, aged from twenty-one to nineteen; he proposed to emigrate with his family, through the aid of the parish to a certain extent. When I looked at his well-reared and intelligent girls, I was so certain of their doing well, that I advised the father to send only one under the care of a friend that was going. He took my advice. I felt confident that she would soon have a better offer than 20*l.* a year. Four months after she left, I sent the second sister. On her arrival in the colony, she had a married sister to receive her. A letter has since arrived from the husband of the first married with a remittance for the third daughter, who is now on the way out. This again has been followed by a joint letter from the husbands of the two first girls who went out, promising a remittance of 50*l.* to make the father and mother comfortable, with instructions to an agent for the emigration of the family. In the daughter's letter to the father, she says:—"Don't, when you are board ship, say how you got your living at home, or talk about what you are to do when you come here. Mrs. Chisholm will tell you how to act. Remember, you are to be a gentleman if you come here; that is, you will be dressed as well as any country farmer in Scotland—you will have the best food, a good horse to ride on, and a farm of sixty acres to go to, well stocked, so that you can keep my brothers to help you. On no account get a pound from the parish; if you should run short of money, get Mrs. C—— to manage with the agent. I am so thankful I took advice, and came as I did." This is one instance of what I call "family colonisation."

The Committee of the *Female Emigration Fund* have received a report from their Sub-Committee, on the best mode of conducting the emigration. The following points appear to be settled:—The candidates must not exceed thirty-five years of age; they must be free from "any bodily or mental defect likely to impair their usefulness as settlers; they should have had the smallpox, or have been vaccinated; their characters for industry and morality should be satisfactory, and it is desirable that they should read and write; they should have been accustomed to washing and cooking, or have had some experience in domestic service as housemaids or nurses." The candidates will at first be received in a probationary house, in this country, superintended by a sub-committee, with a matron accustomed to colonial life, and a surgeon; there they will acquire some training, and will prepare their outfit, which must be provided at their own expense; the machinery of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commission will probably be placed at the service of the enterprise, both for the passage and the reception of the emigrants in the Colonies; each emigrant will receive 10*s.* on landing. The report suggests that persons having relations in the Colonies might be invited to apply for *assisted* passages, one-half of the cost to be defrayed by their friends or the parish. This report has been adopted by the General Committee; and a Committee of Selection has been appointed to prepare a list of fifty candidates.

A preliminary meeting for the purpose of forming a parochial association, in aid of the Committee recently appointed for enabling *Distressed Needlewomen to Emigrate*, was held in the vestry-room of Marylebone parish, on the 29th ult. The vestry passed a resolution approving of Mr. Sidney Herbert's scheme for promoting female emigration, and appointing a committee to organise a branch association in the borough of Marylebone, with a view to the assistance of their own female population. The Rev. Dr. Spry, the rector of Marylebone, was requested to act as chairman to the parochial association, and Mr. H. C. Wilson, honorary secretary. —On the 3rd inst., another meeting was held for furthering the object in view, when, after several resolutions of a purely formal character had been agreed to, it was proposed by Captain Holland that a letter should be sent to Mr. Harley, the secretary of the central association, expressing the desire of the parishioners of Marylebone to assist him by a general subscription throughout the parish, and stating that a public subscription had been commenced. The proposal underwent some discussion, and it was finally agreed to forward the letter, as, without pledging themselves to any particular course, it would elicit the views of the central body. A subscription was then opened.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

FOR the continent generally at the opening of the new year, it is to be said of it simply that the People who were lately its masters, have everywhere had to change and make way for the Military, who are its masters now. But the late governors have left some awkward *im*moveables behind them, such as representative government, universal suffrage, jury law, the necessity of popular assent to elections, enfranchisement of serfs, &c., which will not tend to simplify the toils that await the men of the sword. It will be instructive to watch the course of events, to observe the alternate preponderance of argument and arms, and discern to what extent the enlightened, industrious, and liberal classes will be able to stand against the extravagances of the extremes above and below them.

Louis Napoleon has been trying the pulse of France in regard to absolutism, and has set up a journal to preach it. It is edited by an old hanger-on or secretary of his in this country, who wrote a book about his captivity in Ham, and was in all respects his convenient flatterer. M. Briffault formerly told his prince that it was his destiny to suffer, and make suffering heroic and sublime. Now M. Briffault tells his prince that his task is to repress and create, just as his uncle's was; and, once and for ever, to lay a strenuous coercive hand on the press, on his own administration; and on all the factions old and new. The parallel is Napoleon at Marengo; and the little Napoleon's journal is to put to flight, as the great man's sword did on that occasion, makers of chimerical schemes (*e. g.* framers of republican constitutions), advocates of old and effete customs (*e. g.* such as direct representation of the people), traffickers in the public money (*e.g.* penurious folk who won't increase the president's salary), slanderous scribblers (*e. g.* every body who objects to the president), and conspirators of the higher and lower orders (*e.g.* Thiers and Molé as well as Louis Blanc and Caussidière). Poor President! A path is before him with dangers accumulating at every step; with shadows, clouds, and darkness resting on it; and not a step has he taken hitherto, that has not proved a stumble. The silliness of his present

move for absolutism is at once the measure of his gigantic hopes and his miserably incapable means. It will have the fate of all he has tried. He has flung over the socialists without winning the aristocrats. He has sacrificed the war party without recommending himself to the bourgeoisie. And now, rejected for the present by all, he leans on—M. Briffault! Alas! poor Louis Napoleon.

And Pio Nono! Still more alas, and well a-day, for poor Pio Nono!

An encyclical letter of the forlorn Pope recants all the hopes and efforts with which he began his popedom. The Cardinals are again his masters, and he is the self-announced willing slave to the College of the Propaganda. He denounces the new traffic of book-selling (by which bibles are sold as well as communist tracts), affects to hold up his hands in horror at socialism, and calls the ladies who tended the wounded in Rome by the name of prostitutes! Nor does his holiness scruple, in this production, to couple the advance of communism in Italy with the operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society in England,—a comparison which will probably help to open the eyes of some people in this country to the peculiar sort of interest which is taken in us by the College of Cardinals.

In America the whig President has delivered his Message to the democratic majority in a tone which party circumstances necessarily render somewhat ambiguous, as it is unquestionably moderate, but of which this country certainly has no reason to complain. If any regret is to be expressed that General Taylor and his government should avow themselves partisans of prohibitive duties for protection as well as revenue, it is for the argument it suggests against all federative governments, wherein it would appear to be so difficult to levy the expenses of the general government other than by means of customs. It is also somewhat ominous that not a word of slavery appears in this Message, when we remember that the claims of the new territories for admission within the Union, now pressing and imminent, are likely to revive that question in its most dangerous aspect.

On new year's day the President of the French Republic distinguished the occasion by an *Act of Reconciliation* with an estranged branch of his family—he created his uncle, General Jerome Bonaparte, a Field Marshal of France; the first creation of the rank which has been made since the revolution of February.

Considerable sensation was excited in *Paris* by the appearance, on Sunday the 6th, of the first number of a weekly political journal entitled "*Le Napoléon*," which had been announced as being under the patronage of the Elysée, and which contained a direct attack upon the majority of the Chamber, in the following terms:—"With regard to the feeble majority given to the late measures of the Government, certain journals, whose intentions are open to doubt, advise the Ministry to retire. They pretend, in arguing on certain customs of the past, that, after such checks, Ministers who respect themselves can no longer remain in office. These journals are, or feign to be, ignorant of what is now the position of the responsible head of the Executive Government. In the new order of things, so long as the Ministers enjoy the confidence of the President, they meet with no check. Once for all, we inform the obstinate defenders of the old constitutional routine, that the chief of the State will retain his Ministers in spite of jealous attacks, and that the deplorable fact of ministerial instability will not be produced again at the will of parliamentary ambitions." This paragraph appeared on Sunday night in the "Patrie" and the "Moniteur du Soir," in the place where semi-official articles are generally inserted, with the word "communiqué" attached to it, as an indication that it came from the Government; but in the Assembly on Monday the Ministry denied all responsibility with regard to the articles which had appeared in the "Napoleon."

On the 14th the legislative assembly commenced the general debate on the organic bill concerning *Public Instruction*. Its chief opponents were M. Barthelemy Seffilaire and M. Victor Hugo. The former attacked it as a measure which would ultimately lead to the destruction of the university,—an evil that would leave the State unable to prevent the imparting of doctrines subversive of its own constitution. It would create a monopoly in primary instruction, most for the advantage of the clergy, since the members of the religious bodies devoted to teaching would be those who would principally obtain diplomas as teachers, although the laical teachers are to the clerical teachers as 40,000 to only 3000. Referring expressly to the Jesuits, M. St. Hilaire declared his opinion that their re-appearance in France as a body would be illegal. M. Victor Hugo made a speech in favour of the voluntary principle in religion, interspersed with declamations against priestcraft and the Jesuits. He exclaimed:—"The clerical party is alarmed at Socialism; it sees the waves rising, and it imagines that it will have saved society when it shall have combined material resistance with social hypocrisy, and placed a Jesuit wherever there is not a gendarme." The bill was an attempt to petrify human thought; to arrest France in her onward course; its authors, fatigued with glory, genius, science, and knowledge, stood fast and proclaimed immoveability to the nation. To such men he proclaimed in warning accents, that amidst the movement of all around, their opposition would produce the most lamentable renewal of revolution. M. Hugo was boisterously applauded by the mountain; and was so much interrupted by the right, that the President declared himself restrained from acting as he would otherwise have done in curbing M. Hugo's Anti-Catholic eloquence. The bill was supported by the bishop of Langres, who characterised it as a measure of peace, concord, and compromise. The debate was continued on the 19th, when the bill was warmly supported by M. Montalembert and M. Thiers. M. Coquerel, the eminent Protestant clergyman, said that he was unable to find in the bill either real peace or real liberty. The question of the second reading was carried by a majority of 268.

On the same day, the bill for transporting the insurgents of June to Algeria, was passed by a large majority

At a meeting of the cabinet council, it has been determined almost unanimously that no intervention in the affair of Monte Video shall take place, even should the government of that republic offer to pay the expenses.

Accounts from the French departments speak of the immense quantity of snow that has fallen, and which has occasioned several disasters. Travellers lost their way, and a rural letter-carrier was found dead in the snow. In many cantons of the department of the Ariège the snow has risen to the coping of the houses. Many persons have perished in the avalanches, which are frequent; and whole flocks of sheep have been swept away. In the Jura the communication is completely interrupted, and many persons have fallen a prey to the wolves. In the streets of several towns the snow is more than three metres in depth. In the Saone and Loire, the wolves, impelled by cold and hunger, boldly enter the villages; and in one a woman was devoured by these animals, almost at the door of her house. In other places the bells had to be pealed during the day and night, in order to serve as a guide to the traveller and to the field-labourer.

A villain named Aymet has poisoned a number of persons at Paris. On New Year's Day, he sent packets of pastry and bon-bons to two women; employing boys he found in the street to deliver them. The recipients did not know who had sent the articles, and which were eaten by many persons. All were soon after attacked with the symptoms of poisoning, and suffered much; an officer of the National Guard and a girl died. Aymet had formerly seduced one of the females to whom he sent the confectionary, had been imprisoned, and had

vowed vengeance. Suspicion fell on him from an anonymous letter which accompanied one of the packets; he was arrested; and then a number of circumstances fixing guilt upon him came out. Eventually, he avowed himself as the assassin.

The Portuguese Cortes were opened on the 2nd inst. by the Queen in person, on which occasion her Majesty delivered a speech, presenting on the whole a favourable view of the affairs of the nation. The last and most interesting paragraph is as follows: "I most especially recommend you to go hand in hand with my Government in studying the real situation of the country, and adopting the measures required to establish upon a solid basis the definite organisation of the national finances." In the mean time commercial and monetary affairs continue in the same depressed state at Lisbon as before. All the civil, military, and naval departmental officers are in arrears of pay from four to ten and twenty months.

Considerable agitation has been excited at *Berlin*, owing to the probable success of the extreme Conservative party in persuading the King not to swear fidelity to the Constitution, and a ministerial crisis was expected. The King, however, has intimated his willingness to take the oath to the Constitution, but with modifications which were to be proposed to the Chambers.

The Plenipotentiaries forming the Council ad interim for managing the affairs of *the German Federation* have met at Frankfort.

The Journal of *St. Petersburg* of the 6th instant contains the official sentences passed on twenty-one Russian subjects, arrested some months since, as members of a conspiracy against the Emperor's person. They are chiefly officers in the Guard, or civil officers of rank. Three of the number, Timkovski, Luvof, and Plestscheief, belong to the old nobility of the empire, and the last is a name taking precedence in history of that of the Romanoffs. But Kaschkine, son of a conspirator exiled to Siberia after the revolt of Pestel and Releife in 1825, seems to have played the most remarkable part in this transaction. Confronted with the Emperor, who promised him a full pardon if he would betray his accomplices, Kaschkine indignantly refused; and added, that he had not been inspired with the idea of revenging the condemnation of his father, which was accounted one of the glories of his house, but by the conviction that neither Nicholas nor his family were fitted to make his country's happiness. Twenty of the conspirators were condemned with him to death; and their sentences were commuted into hard labour in the Siberian mines, by the Emperor.

A letter from *Presburg*, dated the 30th of December, gives the following information respecting the families of Kossuth, Guyon, and others of the late Hungarian leaders:—A paragraph has gone the round of the German papers, giving the world to understand that the mother and children of Kossuth have been set at liberty; that upon their leaving their prison at Pesth they came to Vienna, in order to provide themselves with a passport to Turkey. The only word of truth in this story is that this "noble old mother," with her three grandchildren, left their prison at Pesth, but it was to enter a new jail at Presburg: and such a jail! When these helpless beings were consigned to the hospital of the Schloss-berg, the cholera and typhus fever were both raging there, and "Death, busiest from couch to couch, tended the sick." The cholera and typhus have done their work, and death is not so busy now among the patients; the grandmother and the three little Kossuths are still there, thank God, all well. The children of Guyon are also there, behind that tall black wall, pierced with little square holes, that runs round the top of the conical hill overhanging the town. You are not to understand that, because they are in a prison-hospital, they are in a ward mixed with either the crowd of sick or criminals. Their apartments are such as, separated from such a neighbourhood, and unhaunted by such terrible associations, would probably content their modest wants. The children have a tutor appointed by the Government. An attempt was made latterly to induce Madame Kossuth, by the offer of liberty and a commodious residence elsewhere, to leave the children, with what success may be imagined. If she had been their mother, instead of their father's mother, the proposition could not have been rejected with greater scorn. Where the wife is remains to this moment a profound secret. The children consist of two little boys and a girl. The youngest boy is a charming little fellow, full of infantine malice. He says to the Austrian officers, "Wait: I will draw you papa's picture;" and then he scribbles one of those naïve ovals which pass current with such artists for symbols of the human head divine, with a lot of scratches at one end for the beard. Sometimes he pretends to smuggle something in as he passes the sentinel, who cries out, "Show me what you have in your hand, sirrah!" The little fist, after some sham reluctance, expands, and shows—nothing! Then off he bounds in ecstacies of laughter. One can never look up at those dismal walls without thinking of the "noble old mother" and that pretty little fellow singing in his stony cage. Nor are these the only family at Presburg struck by the Hungarian calamity. There are some struck indeed far deeper. There is the widow of General Leiningen; there is the widow of General Damjanich, free, indeed, both to carry their sorrows and destitution whither they please. These helpless women, after the execution of their husbands, were not only despoiled of all property in land inherited in their own right, which is contrary to the Hungarian law, but not even suffered to retain a fraction of the personal property of their husbands. Nay, even their wardrobes were sacked, and their dresses and trinkets snatched from them. It does credit to the citizens of Arad that they would not bid for those articles of female apparel when put up to public auction; for that they deserve the blessing of Damjanich. The dresses were knocked down without civil competition cheap to Austrian officers. Leiningen was an accomplished scholar as well as soldier, and had composed a history of the war. This manuscript, secreted with jealous care by his widow, who valued it more than her jewels, did not escape the narrow search to which her effects were exposed, and was also torn from her possession.

Accounts from *Stockholm* state that the festivities of Christmas Day were interrupted by a large fire, which threatened to reduce the town of Drottnigholm to ashes. There was great difficulty in obtaining water, in consequence of the river being frozen over. The King and the Crown Prince, with several officers, instantly set out from Stockholm, and were among the first on the spot; and by their presence and encouragement greatly stimulated the efforts of the firemen and others, and the conflagration was subdued after destroying several buildings belonging to the Castle.

Letters from *Constantinople* of the 31st ult. announce that diplomatic relations have been officially renewed between Russia and Turkey, the difference relative to the refugees of Widdin having been completely adjusted. The exchange of the protocol took place on that day between M. Titoff and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The last-mentioned accounts add that the Poles implicated in the late Hungarian insurrection are to be confined in the town of Koniah, in Asia Minor. Neither the Porte nor any foreign power can, for the future, protect political delinquents flying from Russia or Austria into Turkey. No person, however, furnished with an English or French passport can be seized by the Russian or Austrian authorities whilst in the Ottoman territory, unless the crime he is charged with be fully proved before the ambassador, consul, or agent of the government whose passport he holds.

Great excitement has been occasioned by a publication of official documents from *Honduras*, announcing that Tigre Island, and other islands alleged to belong to the republic of Honduras, had been taken possession of by Mr. Chatfield, the agent of Great Britain, and the commanders of her Britannic Majesty's steamers Gorgon and Plumper. One account informs us that the flag of Honduras had been hauled down; and another, that the

"American flag had been torn down." Mr. Squier, agent of the United States, had previously negotiated with Honduras for Tigre and other islands in the Bay of Fonseca, on the Pacific coast, to be ceded to the United States. We learn also that he had previously taken possession of Tigre. According to private letters, an English force has also seized the ports of Truxillo and Moro. Mr. Squier, it is added, demanded the evacuation of Tigre in six days, which was refused by Mr. Chatfield; but the latter agreed to submit the question to his Government immediately. One letter-writer, dating from Leon, says that Mr. Chatfield denies the right of Honduras to sell—denies her national existence (formerly part of Central America), also of San Salvador (likewise a part of Central America), and also because England has a lien upon the islands of Honduras, and the ports of Moro and Truxillo in San Salvador, in virtue of loans and claims of British subjects, duly guaranteed. These claims arose, it is said, prior to the division of Central America into small republics. Tigre Island is about 120 or 130 miles west by north of Lake Nicaragua, and is naturally a point of some importance in connexion with the projected Nicaragua Canal, and it therefore acquires great value in American calculations.

The message of the President of the *United States*, on the meeting of Congress, on the 24th of December, embraces many topics; among which, the relations of his government with Great Britain is, of course, the most interesting. On this head, he says:—"Our relations with Great Britain are of the most friendly character. In consequence of the recent alteration of the British navigation acts, British vessels, from British and other foreign ports, will (under our existing laws), after the 1st day of January next, be admitted to entry in our ports, with cargoes of the growth, manufacture, or production of any part of the world, on the same terms as to duties, imposts, and charges, as vessels of the United States with their cargoes; and our vessels will be admitted to the same advantages in British ports, entering therein on the same terms as British vessels. Should no order in Council disturb this legislative arrangement, the late act of the British Parliament, by which Great Britain is brought within the terms proposed by the act of Congress of the 1st of March, 1817, it is hoped, will be productive of benefit to both countries." The President expresses his pleasure at the resumption of diplomatic intercourse with France, after its temporary interruption. Regarding the dispute between Denmark and Sleswig-Holstein, he professes the strictest neutrality. With regard to Germany, the following passage is remarkable:—"Although a minister of the United States to the German Empire was appointed by my predecessor in August, 1848, and has for a long time been in attendance at Frankfort-on-the-Maine; and although a minister, appointed to represent that empire, was received and accredited here, yet no such government as that of the German empire has been definitely constituted. Mr. Donnelson, our representative at Frankfort, remained there several months; in the expectation that a union of the German states, under one constitution or form of government, might at length be organised. It is believed by those well acquainted with the existing relations between Prussia and the states of Germany, that no such union can be permanently established without her co-operation. In the event of the formation of such an union; and the organisation of a central power in Germany, of which she should form a part, it would become necessary to withdraw our minister at Berlin; but, while Prussia exists as an independent kingdom, and diplomatic relations are maintained with her, there can be no necessity for the continuance of the mission to Frankfort. I have, therefore, recalled Mr. Donnelson, and directed the archives of the legation at Frankfort to be transferred to the American legation at Berlin." The message earnestly calls the attention of Congress to an amendment of the existing laws, relating to the African Slave Trade, with a view to its effectual abolition; and sketches out the proposed plan for a canal across the Isthmus of Panama, inviting all nations to co-operate in this great work.

On the 22nd of December, after sixty-four ballots, the Honorable Howell Cobb, of Georgia, the democratic candidate, was elected *Speaker of the House of Representatives*.

The Hungarian Refugees have arrived at New York, where they have been received with great distinction. Before leaving Europe, Governor Ujhazi, the defender of Comorn, wrote from London to General Taylor informing him of the desire of the Hungarian exiles to find an asylum in the United States. General Taylor said, in reply:—"The people of this Republic have deeply sympathised with the Hungarians in their recent struggle for constitutional freedom, and in the calamities which have befallen their unhappy land; and I am sure that I but speak the universal sentiment of my countrymen in bidding you, and your associates, a cordial welcome to our soil—the natural asylum of the oppressed from every clime. We offer you protection and a free participation in the benefits of our institutions and our laws; and trust that you may find in America a second 'home.'"

General Cass has given notice in the senate of an instruction to the Committee on Foreign Relations, to inquire into "the expediency of suspending diplomatic relations with the Austrian Government," on account of her cruel political executions of the Hungarian patriots. A resolution proposed by Mr. Root, of Ohio, tending to establish territorial governments in the Mexican conquests, and prohibiting slavery therein, has produced a division of 101 to 81; which the Northern or Wilmot Proviso party deemed a triumph.

The Legislature of the State of Vermont unanimously voted resolutions expressing readiness to receive the Canadas into the American Union, provided the step were effected "without a violation of amicable relations with the British Government and of the law of nations."

A strange and romantic incident has occurred in the Boston Lunatic Hospital. A mother and daughter (emigrants) both became inmates at different dates, and were placed in the same story of the building, where they had access to the same hall. They met and recognised each other, though one had left the other years ago in Ireland. They had each crossed the ocean, become residents in New York, and lost all knowledge of the other's history or fate; both became bereft of reason, and in a madhouse, surrounded by those who were hopelessly insane, the child and parent met; though reason was dethroned, and they were there with minds diseased, yet nature triumphed over the clouded intellect, and for a brief moment they conversed on the land of their birth, and of their separation.

Advices from *California* to the 16th November have been received. The new Constitution, of which we some time since gave the marked features, had been adopted almost unanimously. The rainy season had set in; the streams in the mining country were already much swelled, and large numbers of miners had returned to the coast for winter quarters. In consequence, there had been a sudden rise in the cost of provisions, &c., and an increase of disease; the cholera, dysentery, and fever prevailed—though not so fatally as to cause much alarm. The gold-digging of the year is thought to be only about equal to that of last year—about 8,000,000 dollars' worth.—A letter from *San Francisco* says,—"Walking through the city reminds me of an immense fair; music issues from every third house, where gambling is carried on to a frightful extent, ragged-looking fellows staking their 10, 20, or 30 dollars at montem, and losing them with the utmost coolness Women occasionally may be seen, with handkerchiefs full of dollars and doubloons, playing with great eagerness."

The rush for *California* from the United States is described as being immense. No less than three steamers, each filled with passengers, left New York for the golden land a few days before the last mail for England. Emigration to the Pacific also from New England is quite active. It is calculated that there are at present 300 ships in the Bay of San Francisco, mostly without crews; that 500 vessels have sailed from the United States for California, besides steamers; that these vessels have conveyed 50,000 passengers; and that 50,000 more have gone by land, making 100,000 in all.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE opening of the new year has been signalised by a discussion (arising out of the death of Mr. Tytler the historian) which illustrates the position of literature in England with relation to the State. His pension falls, and is not renewable; the State having compromised all such claims upon it, fifteen years ago, by that new and magnificent arrangement of the Civil List which secured the yearly disposal of twelve hundred a-year, as its total and entire recognition of all such services. But even this superb economy does not satisfy everybody. It has given opportunity to an ardent enemy of protection (a convert, and over zealous, as converts generally are) to protest that all protection, by way of pensions or otherwise, is as mischievous in literature as in commerce, and that the let-alone system is best for both. In other words, that the Government of a country, which is encouraged on all occasions to recognise services done to the State by professors of arms, law, divinity, and diplomacy, should be forbidden to acknowledge, in any manner, services done to the State by distinguished efforts in art, literature, and science. It is highly fitting and appropriate that the Mr. Jenkins who proposes this should have taken the same occasion of contrasting professional "authors of the middling and lower order," as a public nuisance, with cravings "after literary fame in men of rank and fortune," as a symptom of social progress. The real truth is that, manifold as are the shortcomings of our Government in questions not directly affecting the markets or prices current, it labours under no opprobrium so great as its exaggerated appreciation of the military services, and its neglect of great scientific, literary, and moral services. The most common of the abilities are the most rewarded, while the most rare benefactors of the human race are left to such nobility as they can bestow upon themselves. No rank was conferred on Jenner; and the highest rank assignable by custom to the most exalted literary genius, is the honour of a baronetcy. We take nothing to do from a parcel of sinecure clerks in Chancery, and compensate them with tens of thousands a year. But so abundant and dog-cheap are worthy labourers in literature, or so few and easily rewarded, that an annual pension-fund to the amount of twelve hundred pounds satisfies them all; to say nothing of royal writing-masters, dancing-masters, and retired coachmen, flung into the same list! How long—how long?

The publications of the first month of the new year have been more than ordinarily numerous, but of comparatively trifling importance. To a great extent, they have been reprints of new editions, or of books originally published in America. Mr. Murray has thus reissued the leading works of Washington Irving, with some new biographies, in the library form which they had lately received from a New York publisher; Mr. Bentley has reprinted some volumes of travels and geographical science; and Mr. John Chapman has published a new work by Emerson on *Representative Men*.

But decidedly the most welcome and valuable of our literary visitors from the other side of the Atlantic has been Mr. Ticknor's *History of Spanish Literature*. The author of this book was well known to Southey, and, as well in his love for Spanish and Portuguese literature, as in the character of his mind and tastes, bears some resemblance to our distinguished countryman. His style is not so well knit, but it is ample and forcible; and in this book, which appears to have been the labour of a life, a want is supplied which scholars and men of letters have heretofore distinctly felt. The subject is taken in three periods: the first conducting the language and literature from their origin to the end of Ferdinand and Isabella; the second, descriptive of the course and fate of Spanish literature under the house of Austria; and the third, of its destinies under the Bourbons. Under these divisions, there are also sub-divisions of the authors treated of, into the various classes of chronicles, ballads, the drama, and so forth,—excepting always where in one great name is included an entire literary epoch, as in those of Alphonso the Wise, Cervantes, and Lope de Vega, when the works of that writer form a section in themselves.

The most important English book has been a long-promised edition of *Marlowe's Works*, by the Rev. Alexander Dyce, with a text thoroughly revised from a comparison of the former editions, and a new life. To none of the early English dramatists was such a service so emphatically due. The modern edition it displaces is one of the worst conceivable; yet this rude great writer will always possess an interest superior (with but one exception) to the most refined of his cotemporaries or successors, because in him we find first those forms of fancy, and that intense beauty and fitness of language, which were transfused into the later poets. Excepting for this his writings would hardly have survived their general violence and extravagance; but this has made them a vital portion of English literature, and connected them with even the history of our language. Among the curious facts discovered by Mr. Dyce two are worth mention. The first is that the poet, who was the son of a shoemaker at Canterbury, received his education at the king's school in that city; where it seems probable that by early indications of learning and genius he obtained the patronage of Chief Baron Manwood, and was thus enabled to proceed to Benet College in Cambridge, where he took his bachelor's degree when he was twenty. Mr. Dyce's second curious discovery is, that after he had produced "blaspheming *Tamburlaine*" upon the boards of a London theatre, when he was four and twenty, he was enabled to take his master's degree. This would seem to indicate that a writer of stage-plays at that period could hardly have seemed so contemptible a person to a University Don as he is generally supposed to have been.

The other most interesting book of the month is the commencement of *Southey's Life and Correspondence*, by his son. A new *Life of Calvin* has also been published by Mr. Dyer, with information from original sources; a book upon *The London Prisons*, by Mr. Dixon, contains useful and curious information; and Yankee land has suggested another book of travels and of shrewd womanly observation under the title of *Hesperos*. In the way of fiction there is nothing worth placing upon record; but our summary may close with the mention of a tragedy on the subject of *Galileo Galilei*, by a writer not hitherto known in poetry, which is marked by unusual evidences of philosophic thought as well as high poetic feeling.

Mrs. Mowatt, the American actress, has produced a five-act comedy at the Olympic Theatre, called *Fashion, or Life at New York*. It is well acted, and has had some success. If it is a true portraiture of American fashionable society and manners, then the Americans have no reason to complain of Mrs. Trollope and other English writers as unfair caricaturists.

Mr. Mitchell has resumed his performances of French operas at the St. James's Theatre, with a good company, comprising Chollet, Nathan, Mdlle. Charton, Mdlle. Guichard, and Mdlle. Cotti. Halévy's latest work, *Le Val d'Andorre*, and Herold's *Zampa*, have been extremely well got up and performed, and received with much favour.

The only musical performances are the Wednesday Concerts at Exeter Hall, where a great variety of popular music is very well performed. They consequently draw crowded houses.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of Jan. 1. EDWARD BELL, Lambeth-walk, grocer.—JOSEPH FISHER, Cleeve, Somersetshire, money-scrivener.—WILLIAM PEARSON, Maryport, Cumberland, iron-founder.—ZACCHEUS STAFFORD, Nottingham, innkeeper.—JOHN WILLIAMS, Newport, Monmouthshire, auctioneer.

Jan. 4. JOHN DIXON, Liverpool, grocer.—WILLIAM PAULING, Holyhead, hotel-keeper.—HENRY EDWARD TUCK, New Cavendish-street, milliner.

Jan. 8. WILLIAM BEDFORD, Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire, farmer.—ELIAS COCKER, Manchester, cotton manufacturer.—EDWARD EFFER, Totnes, Devonshire, victualler.—EDWARD FARRAR, Guildford-street, apothecary.

Jan. 11. WILLIAM CORNISH, Bristol, cabinet-maker.—WILLIAM DOBBS, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, brassfounder.—JOHN FREEMAN, Millbank, Worcestershire, horse-dealer.—HENRY JAMES HINXMAN, Bury, Lancashire, apothecary.—JOHN MATTHEWS and JOHN MARTIN, Chichester-place, King's-cross, drapers.—JOHN HEAD, Melcombe Regis, Dorsetshire, grocer.—JOHN STUCKES, Exeter, innkeeper.—GEORGE TROTTER, Gloucester, coachmaker.

Jan. 15. VINCENT COOKE, Worcester, cabinet-maker.—WILLIAM DRABBES, Askern, Yorkshire, innkeeper.—WILLIAM LEE, King's Mills-wharf, Rotherhithe, barge-builder.—JOHN MORRISH, Tiverton, Devonshire, cooper.—JOHN MICKLESTON, Jun., Shrewsbury, grocer.—JOHN CHARLES NORTH, Stamford, coal-dealer. GEORGE OLNEY, Liverpool, passenger broker.—JONATHAN PAYNE, Milton-street, Dorset-square, livery stable-keeper.—BENJAMIN RAWLINGS, Queen's-row, Pimlico, linen-draper.—HENRY SUTCLIFFE and JOSEPH WILLIAM HARRIS, Rochdale, cotton-spinners.—JOHN EDWARD TODHUNTER, Darlington, Durham, bookseller.

Jan. 18. EDWARD BRATTAN, Northwich, Cheshire, cabinet-maker.—EDWARD DIXON, Gravesend, oil and colourman.—JOHN EDWARDS, Manchester, manufacturer.—JOHN SEWELL GOWRING, Swaffham, Norfolk, bookseller.—NELSON JOHN HOLLOWAY, Minories, City, clock-manufacturer.—JESSE HITTON and JONATHAN FISHER, Foleshill, Warwickshire, silk-manufacturers.—BENJAMIN JEFFERIES, Worcester, boat-builder.—GEORGE STONE, Colchester, grocer.—SAMUEL SUTTON, Old-Bailey, City, hardwareman.—CHARLES WOOD, Ditcheling, Sussex, butcher.

Jan. 22. JAMES BANNEHR, Exeter, law-stationer.—DANIEL BISHOP, York-street, St. James's-square, wine-merchant.—ROBERT FULFORD, Fulford's-place, Southgate-road, Middlesex, builder.—GEORGE HAMMOND, Milton next Gravesend, Kent, and Mill-wall, Poplar, wharfinger.—JOHN HIGNETT, Weaverham, Cheshire, shoemaker.—JESSE HILTON and JONATHAN FISHER, Foleshill, Warwickshire, silk-manufacturers.—ROBERT KENNETT, Broadway, Westminster, and Wilton-mews and Wilton-road, Pimlico, licensed victualler.—JOHN OLIVER, Queen's-road, Bayswater, plumber.—WILLIAM SHAW and SAMUEL SHAW, Upper Mill and Grasscroft, Yorkshire, timber merchants.

Jan. 25. JOHANN CHRISTIAN BREMER, Mark-lane, City, merchant.—BENJAMIN HEWITT, Burton-upon-Trent, licensed victualler.—PETER MANN, Leeds, corn-factor.—GEORGE RENNIE, Liverpool, merchant.—THOMAS SMURWAITE, Scarborough, Yorkshire, wine merchant.—JOHN WEBSTER, Southgate, Middlesex, dealer in mining shares.

Jan. 29. JOHN BAKER, Cheltenham, boot and shoe manufacturer.—SAMUEL BANFILL, Edward-street, St. Marylebone, cabinet maker.—THOMAS DON, Swinton Iron Works, West Riding of Yorkshire.—TIMOTHY HARVEY, Newark-upon-Trent, Nottinghamshire. miller.—RICHARD LEACH, Newmarket, Suffolk, tailor.—JAMES HENRY MILLS, Hove, Sussex, broker.—THOMAS MATTHEW PEACOCK, Lower-marsh, Lambeth; High-street, Poplar; and Deptford, boot and shoe maker.—HENRY GEORGE RIDEOUT, Nottingham, glove manufacturer.—HENRY ROSE, Manchester and Salford, common brewer.—GEORGE FLETCHER SHARPLES, Manchester, hosier.—HENRY STRATTON, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, trader.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

Jan. 18. GEORGE TEAGLE WINTER, Brick-lane, St. Luke's, builder.—JOSEPH FOX, North-street, Bethnal-green, and Victoria-grove, Victoria-park, timber merchant.—FRANCIS TEALE, Leyton, Essex, brewer.

Jan. 24. THOMAS WICKENDEN, Harp-lane, Tower-street, City, wine merchant.

THE STOCK AND SHARE MARKETS.

City, Jan. 28.

There has been a good deal of fluctuation in the Stock Market during the month, and the transactions during the first fortnight were on a very extensive scale. The New Year opened with Consols at 96 to $\frac{1}{8}$ for the 16th January, but the price speedily rose, marking $97\frac{1}{4}$ on the 4th; and notwithstanding a slight re-action which then occurred, the upward movement continued till the 9th, when Consols reached $97\frac{3}{4}$. After this some weakness became apparent, which was farther increased by the announcement of a new Russian loan for five millions and a half sterling, and on the 16th the price had fallen to 96. By the 20th it had reached 97, and again receded, and to-day is quoted $96\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$. Of late the business has been on a very quiet scale.

The Railway Share Market has been good and buoyant during the month, and a very sensible rise in value has taken place for every description of stock. There has been a large increase in the business, and more investment on account of the public than for some time past. The tone at present is still very firm and satisfactory.

STOCKS.

	Prices during the Month.		
	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols	$97\frac{3}{4}$	96	$96\frac{1}{4}$
Three per Cent. Reduced	$97\frac{7}{8}$	96	$96\frac{3}{8}$
Three and a quarter per Cents.	100	$97\frac{3}{8}$	$98\frac{3}{4}$
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860	$8\frac{11}{16}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{11}{16}$
Bank Stock	209	203	206
India Stock	269	$261\frac{1}{2}$	268
South Sea Stock	$107\frac{7}{8}$	$105\frac{1}{2}$	$107\frac{7}{8}$
Exchequer Bills	63*s.* prm.	57*s.* prm.	60*s.* prm.
India Bonds	101*s.* pm.	88*s.* prm.	93*s.* prm.

RAILWAYS.

Paid.		Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
92	Bristol and Exeter	65	58	65
50	Caledonian	$12\frac{1}{4}$	10	$12\frac{1}{4}$
20	Eastern Counties	$7\frac{3}{4}$	$6\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$
20	Great Northern	$8\frac{1}{8}$	$6\frac{3}{4}$	$6\frac{7}{8}$
100	Great N. of England	233	228	232
100	Great Western	70	$56\frac{1}{2}$	$68\frac{1}{2}$
50	Hull and Selby	$102\frac{1}{2}$	$98\frac{1}{2}$	$102\frac{1}{2}$
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	$57\frac{1}{2}$	53	$57\frac{1}{2}$
50	Leeds and Bradford	$104\frac{1}{4}$	$99\frac{1}{2}$	$103\frac{1}{4}$
100	London and Brighton	$85\frac{1}{2}$	$77\frac{1}{2}$	$85\frac{1}{2}$
100	London and North Western	120	107	$117\frac{1}{2}$
100	London and S. Western	70	$59\frac{1}{2}$	68
100	Midland	$46\frac{1}{4}$	$42\frac{1}{2}$	$44\frac{1}{2}$
$17\frac{1}{2}$	North Staffordshire	$7\frac{7}{8}$	$7\frac{1}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{4}$
$33\frac{1}{8}$	South Eastern	$20\frac{5}{8}$	$18\frac{5}{8}$	$20\frac{1}{4}$
25	York, Newcastle, and Berwick	$17\frac{1}{4}$	$16\frac{1}{8}$	$16\frac{3}{8}$
50	York and North Midland	$18\frac{3}{4}$	$16\frac{7}{8}$	$18\frac{1}{4}$

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Jan. 28.

The Corn Market during the greater part of the month has been dull and depressed, and the prices both of English and foreign wheat have experienced a decline. The arrivals from the country have been very moderate, but quite sufficient to meet the small demand from the millers, whose trade has been much interfered with by the large importations of foreign flour. The London averages last announced are as follows:—

Wheat, per quarter, 44*s.* 1*d.*
Barley, 27*s.* 7*d.*
Oats, 17*s.* 3*d.*
Beans, 26*s.*
Peas, 30*s.* 10*d.*

Flour, Town made, delivered, per 280 lbs., 38*s.* to 40*s.*
„ American, per barrel, of 196 lbs., 22*s.* to 25*s.*

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt. — Waterford 42*s.* to 47*s* ; Limerick, 43*s.* to 45*s.*; American, 26*s.* to 34*s.*

Beef, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*

Butter, per cwt., Carlow, first, 72*s.* to 84*s.*; Waterford, 56*s.* to 70*s.*; Fine Dorset, 86*s.* to 90*s.*; Fine Friesland, 88*s.* to 94*s.*; Fresh, 9*s.* to 13*s.* per 12 lbs.

Cheese, per cwt., Dutch Edam, 40*s.* to 46*s.*; Gouda Grass, 32*s.* to 38*s.*; American, good and fine, 42*s.* to 46*s.*

Eggs, English, per 100, 8*s.* to 10*s.*; French, 6*s.* to 8*s.*

Hams, per cwt.—York, cut and dry, 60*s.* to 74*s.*; Westphalia, 62*s.* to 64*s.*; Irish, prime small, 70*s.* to 72*s.*

Mutton, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*

Potatoes, per ton.—Yorkshire Prince Regents, 115*s.* to 120*s.*; Common Whites, 60*s.* to 70*s.*; French Whites, 80*s.* to 90*s.*

Pork, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 8*d.* to 4*s.* 2*d.*

Veal, per 8 lbs., 3*s.* to 4*s.*

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt.—Guayaquil, 35*s.*; Trinidad, 42*s.* to 46*s.* 6*d.*

Coffee, per cwt.— Good ord. native Ceylon, 61*s.* to 62*s.*; Plantation, fine qualities, 60*s.* 6*d.* to 64*s.* 6*d.*; Sumatra, 49*s.* to 50*s.*; mid. to good mid. Mocha, 70*s.* to 74*s.*

Rice, per cwt.—Good mid. white Bengal, 11*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.*; Carolina, 22*s.* to 26*s.*

Sago, per cwt.—Pearl, 22*s.* 6*d* to 26*s.*

Sugar, per cwt.—Havannah, yellow, 39*s.* to 41*s.* 6*d.*; British West India, mid., 37*s.* to 39*s.* 6*d.*; Mauritius brown, 30*s.* to 36*s.* 6*d.*; Grocery lumps, 50*s.* to 52*s.*

Tea, per lb. (duty 2*s.* 1*d.*),—Congou, 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*; Com. Congou, $10\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $10\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Canton young Hyson, $8\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; finer kinds, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d*

Candles, per 12 lbs., 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*; Coals, per ton, 16*s.* 9*d.* to 23*s.*

OILS.

Pale Seal, per ton, 39*l.* to 39*l.* 10*s.*
Sperm, 83*l.* to 84*l.*

Olive, Gallipoli, 49*l.* to 50*l.*
Pale rape, 42*l.*

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Monthly Supplement to "*HOUSEHOLD WORDS*," *Conducted by* CHARLES DICKENS.

THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1850.] FROM THE 1ST TO THE 28TH FEBRUARY. [PRICE 2*d*.

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

THE Great Protectionist Gim has gone off in parliament without any effect much more notable than the bringing down of Mr. Gladstone. The aim of the thing was a motion to relieve the land of alleged peculiar burdens; and the "cunning man" thought it so modest of Mr. Disraeli to ask for protection in that way, that he voted for granting it, in order to prevent any more being asked for. To concede a part, he argued, was the way to avoid all necessity of conceding any more; which was as if old Thomas Aquinas had come back to prove to us, that the effectual way to exclude the big end of the wedge was to make no scruple of admitting the little end. Nevertheless Mr. Disraeli's modesty, though rewarded by a somewhat larger minority than usual, has not increased his popularity with his own party; which is manifestly a house divided against itself, for all purposes but those of faction. The farmers now hear one batch of their friends clamouring for protection, as a dear defunct who must be revived; while the other sensibly advertises its readiness to be content with compensation for the departed. The choice is whether they will wait for the chance of a dead spouse re-appearing, or "relieve their burdens" of grief by asking another spouse to take her place; and the public has cause to be equally on its guard against both. Its interest does not lie with the choice of either. It is not possible that the beloved of the farmers should have charms for any but themselves: for though they quarrel mightily about their own interests, they never combine without a most astonishing zeal against everybody else's. Their leader in the House of Lords is now conducting a powerful opposition against equal law for Orangemen and Catholics in Ireland; and no less than eight times did their representatives, in the House of Commons, divide the other night against amendment of the Irish franchise. From the sense of labouring with injustice, when really strong and sincere, a certain sympathy with its victims of every kind would seem to be inseparable. But the cry for protection is based on no such feeling. Selfishness is the largest ingredient in it.

Nor is it confined to farmers. The Bishop of London is now clamouring for protection against Mr. Gorham and the Privy Council, in precisely the spirit with which farmer Lennox cries out to be protected against Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright. His grace is alarmed, forsooth, and feels his conscience heavily burdened, by the fact of such questions as are now in issue between Mr. Gorham and Doctor Philpotts, being referred to a lay tribunal, for whose orthodoxy there is no guarantee. What the judgment is likely to be, he knows not: but whatever it may be, the constitution of the judges forbids orthodox reliance on their wisdom. In other words, Doctor Blomfield desires to see the church of England released from the civil bonds which separate her, more than any other peculiarity in her institutions, from alliance with the Church of Rome. He will have nobody but archbishops, bishops, deans, and professors of divinity, sit in judgment upon her; and for that purpose has submitted a bill for the enactment of such a court of appeal, *vice* the privy council deposed, to the house of which he is a member. It is to be hoped that their lordships, mindful of the great event which gives Doctor Blomfield his seat among them, will know how to deal with it. It is in effect an attempt, very thinly veiled, to assail the doctrine of the Royal Supremacy. What the Bishop of London means by orthodoxy is evasion of the troublesome fetters of the State.

It is precisely the feeling which actuates the reverend brawlers against the Government on the subject of education. One of their bigots, a Doctor of Divinity, went so far the other day at a meeting in Willis's Rooms, as to call down a curse on all who were engaged in promoting a particular branch of the system of education sanctioned by the Government Council. Three bishops (Philpotts, of course, was one), five peers, four archdeacons, and numerous dignitaries of the Church, stood upon the platform beside the reverend imprecator; but not a voice was lifted in protest or rebuke. All present were in fact committed to the same horrible doctrines. They proceed, as a matter of course, from the pretensions to infallibility now common with large sections of English churchmen, and which are in fact the origin of such proposed enactments as those of the Bishop of London. The men who hold these doctrines stigmatise as infidels all who would dispute the Church's claims to a monopoly of education. They denounce, as worse than ignorance, all education not directly emanating from the Church, and exclusively controlled by it. They carry out, in their thoughts and practice, an intolerance even more awful than the intolerance with which the great Roman satirist charges the Jews, to whom he imputes a bigotry so unfeeling, narrow, and extreme in its bitterness, that out of their own sect they would not point the way to the traveller, nor show the thirsty the desired spring. And all this is going on in a country where the proportion of children at school to the population is one in thirteen, and in which one half of the population cannot write their names!

Earnest men, however, begin to see the terrible danger that threatens us in this direction, and are making strenuous efforts to avert it. Nor, it might have seemed to a stranger present in the House of Commons when Mr. Fox lately introduced the subject, are the chances of success for such efforts by any means remote. Mr. Fox asked leave to bring in a bill, giving at the same time a general view of the educational scheme intended to be embodied in it; and the mixed conciliatory and comprehensive character of this scheme seems to have come before the house so much in the nature of a surprise, that nobody upon the instant was prepared to threaten opposition. The effect was curious. Never till then had such a reception

been given to a Radical speech on Education. The Church-party did not disallow, the Minister even spoke in approval, and the advocates of secular instruction were fain to express by silence at once their hopes and their fears. But the latter have most reason to predominate, notwithstanding apparent signs to the contrary. Supposing even the cursing priests silenced and defeated, it would, we fear, be building a tower on sand to expect that all other conflicting parties in this country are prepared suddenly to unite in the assertion that differences of creed shall no longer be allowed to act as a prohibition against knowledge. Substantially this is the principle of Mr. Fox's proposal; and though, to save us all, such a principle must be carried into practice sooner or later, there is small chance of the right beginning being made, till the Government are bold enough and strong enough to take some steps in advance of the people. Who can doubt but that the religious cry, if not the religious curse, will again be raised if needful, to sustain the monstrous charge of infidelity against men whose only error (if it be one) is to think religion too vital an element in education to be marred or excluded by sectarian dispute?

Such is the vicious circle in which ignorance moves, that only to a people uneducated could the arguments used to keep them so be addressed with any chance of acceptance. Secular education is described and believed to be exclusive of religion, while all its efforts are shaped to give practical force to religion. Does anyone believe that what at present passes for religious education, at Sunday-schools and the like, is deserving of the name of education at all? Does anyone doubt that in proportion as spelling is taught, religion is *not* taught, when the Bible is used for a spelling-book? We shall have to look these truths in the face before long, and to confess that children will not know religion less by knowing other things as well, but that the capacity of better comprehending and acting upon its truths will be strengthened by general knowledge. At present it is called encouraging infidelity to inculcate such doctrines; but in what other way could religious teaching be made universal, but by giving free scope to the efforts of every religious sect? What is now proposed to be tried would meddle with no existing plan by which, in any small or great degree, education is already extended to the people. All that it asks to do is to educate such waifs and strays as neither Churchmen nor Dissenters can draw within their several folds. Nay more, it would make religion compulsorily a part of education, simply reserving to the parent a liberty of providing the religious instructor. It would compel certificates of attendance on the instructors so appointed. It would use the official machinery already established, apply no compulsion where voluntary efforts are found to operate successfully, confirm all Government aid as at present given to rival or contending sects, and simply secure (by a local rate) what every other means may have failed to provide for the remaining portion of the people. But its merits foredoom it against all favourable fortune but such as it may derive from discussion. Free and frank discussion alone can help us in the matter. The more discussion there is, and the bolder it is, the more it will be made obvious that knowledge and religion can have no exclusive or separate interests; seeing that the knowledge which indisposes a man to religion is as likely to be false knowledge, as the religion which indisposes a man to knowledge is certainly false religion.

The representative of Oxford bigotry made a serious mistake in pointing to the celebrated tenth of April as an answer to all this, and proof of a well educated people. Admitting that numbers of the working men behaved well on that occasion, what is to be said of the numberless others whose ignorance and violence made such a demonstration necessary? What is to be said of a multitude so duped and ignorant as to have pinned their political faith on such an apostle as Mr. Feargus O'Connor? It would be difficult to conceive so unanswerable an argument for the necessity of a more general system of education, than is supplied by the influence of such a person over the tens of thousands he has deceived and misled. Most opportunely occurred the case of *O'Connor* v. *Bradshaw*, for a comment on Sir Robert Inglis's remark. It has been made manifest by this case, that, by a scheme entirely illusory which was to secure small freehold tenements to working men, backed by a tissue of pretences now proved to have been utterly false, Mr. Feargus O'Connor got possession of more than a hundred thousand pounds of the hard earnings of the poor; and that by the very means which placed this money in his power, these being illegal, he was released from all subsequent accountability for it. In fact the money became absolutely his own, if it had been his pleasure so to consider it; and though, after he got it, he wrote to his "dear children" to tell them he would not rob them, his deluded and dear children have never since had any profit from their dependence on his word. The most part of seventy thousand industrious and honest, but easily gulled working men, are still trembling for their little earnings, so foolishly committed to such hands, on the faith of an amount of braggadocio quite incredible and monstrous. "I say that there never was such a day for England and the world," he wrote to these unhappy men, on the eve of opening one of the land company's settlements, "as the first of May will be"—(a pity it was not the first of April!) "At twelve o'clock on that day, your brethren will be each put in possession of his estate for ever; and your feelings will be the best answer to my accusers, and the opponents of this plan, when you sit down in your own house, from which no tyrant can hunt you. And when you are located, you and your children, and your children's children (if I shall ever live to see my great-grand-children), shall ever be the chief object of my every care and thought; and I won't rob you, neglect you, or diminish your store of happiness; but I will work the harder to assist the needy, as I would sorrow greatly if any lost the nest I built for him and his family." Could a more lamentable exhibition of the absolute need of education be given, than that such rubbish as this should have imposed on seventy thousand men, with prudence to save money but without knowledge to make proper use of it? Could ignorance be conceived more bigotted than that which welcomed a braggart for a god, and "worshipped this dull fool." But he promised them social and political emancipation; and said he would not rob them (an odd notion to have entered his head); and, appealing to two of the strongest motives that actuate the uneducated and educated alike, the passion for gambling, and the desire for possession of land, ultimately succeeded in obtaining absolute control over more than a hundred thousand pounds. To not a farthing of this money, it was proved at the recent trial, has any other person than Mr. O'Connor any legal claim. So completely is it in his power, that (as the Chief Baron lucidly explained the law), supposing he became a bankrupt, his creditors might seize it in satisfaction of their demands, and, if he bequeathed it conscientiously for the uses of his subscribers, his heir-at-law might refuse to carry his intention into effect on the score of the illegality of the transaction. The bursting of the bubble (and that the "Earth has bubbles" this land-scheme sadly demonstrates!) of course took place as soon as the attempt was made to float it; the nests which Mr. O'Connor had built for his children were flung open to the storm; and by a worse tyrant than he had promised to

protect them from, even by Want and Hunger, starving husbands and families *were* hunted from their "estates for ever." At this time twenty thousand subscribers to the scheme had paid their shares in full, and were entitled to stand the ballot for allotments; yet it was proved before the House of Commons, that, supposing the claims to have been allowed, such had been the measures taken to secure the subscribers' titles and realise the promised advantages that the whole number could not have been located in a less period than about two hundred years! For asserting upon this condition of facts that the wretched victims of the bubble had been swindled out of their money, the member for Nottingham prosecuted the editor of the *Nottingham Journal;* and a sapient jury decided that the editor was justified in his assertion, but that nevertheless the member's character stood unimpeached as regarded personal honesty!

Perhaps the saving clause was thrown in as a sop to the house which the worthy member adorns; but if so, it was quite uncalled for. A debate was going on there, almost concurrently with the trial, of which the object was to disqualify members bankrupt and insolvent, in worldly goods, from continuing to retain their seats; but not a word was whispered in the debate of the necessity or expediency of disqualifying members who were simply bankrupt in reputation and character. Silently it was confessed that against these there was no remedy; and in our judgment it was therefore the most manly course to let the other also sit unquestioned. In truth the remedy lies not with the house against either. All that with propriety it can do in the matter would be to waive its privileges against the just claims of a creditor. The retention of any right barring the free operation and enforcement of the laws, is a scandal to a house of law-makers. But everything else is the affair of the constituencies. If it is the pleasure of any electoral body to prefer a man of broken fortunes but honourable life to a man in the possession of enormous wealth obtained by questionable means, it is quite right that it should be at liberty to do so. The opposite course is of the more frequent occurrence, but neither against that should any legislative bar be placed. They are questions affecting solely the electoral functions, and to them they should be referred.

The dispute of Mr. Horsman with the premier, which so agitated the nerves of the house during these discussions, is now hardly worth allusion. In the heat of supporting a cause which has been far from successful to the extent of its deservings, and with which bishops and all kinds of quarrelsome and explosive matter have been inextricably mixed up, Mr. Horsman may be excused for a hard word now and then; but the charge of meanness and duplicity applied to such a man as the premier, refutes itself. His very faults disprove it more emphatically than his virtues. The question in dispute is not whether certain amendments which Lord John Russell promised to make in the Ecclesiastical Commission Bill, so as to adapt it to the recommendations of the house of commons committee, were not so made by him as directly to evade or contradict those recommendations; but whether the promise was general or specific—whether it was for alterations in consequence of the committee, or for alterations to meet the views of the committee—and whether there was any intention deliberately to mislead before those amendments were printed, by inducing Mr. Horsman to suppose that they were what he expected them to be. It is certain that Mr. Horsman ought to have possessed himself of what the amendments really were before he consented to the printing; and, that not having done so, he leaves the entire question as a misunderstanding. Such it clearly would appear to have been. It is quite possible that more than was meant might have been said on one side, and more than was meant understood or inferred on the other.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

PARLIAMENT was opened by Commission on the 31st of January. The Commissioners were the Lord Chancellor, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Earl of Minto, and the Bishop of London. The Royal Speech was as follows:—

"My Lords and Gentlemen—We are commanded by her Majesty to assure you that her Majesty has great satisfaction in again having recourse to the advice and assistance of her Parliament.

"The decease of her Majesty Queen Adelaide has caused her Majesty deep affliction. The extensive charity and exemplary virtues of her late Majesty will always render her memory dear to the nation.

"Her Majesty happily continues in peace and amity with Foreign Powers.

"In the course of the autumn, differences of a serious character arose between the governments of Austria and Russia on the one hand, and the Sublime Porte on the other, in regard to the treatment of a considerable number of persons who, after the termination of the civil war in Hungary, had taken refuge in the Turkish territory. Explanations which took place between the Turkish and Imperial governments have fortunately removed any danger to the peace of Europe which might have arisen out of these differences. Her Majesty, having been appealed to on this occasion by the Sultan, united her efforts with those of the government of France, to which a similar appeal had been made, in order to assist, by the employment of her good offices, in effecting an amicable settlement of those differences in a manner consistent with the dignity and independence of the Porte.

"Her Majesty has been engaged in communications with Foreign States upon the measures which might be rendered necessary by the relaxation of the restrictions formerly imposed by the Navigation-laws of this country. The Governments of the United States of America and of Sweden have promptly taken steps to secure to British ships in the ports of their respective countries advantages similar to those which their own ships now enjoy in British ports. With regard to those Foreign States whose navigation-laws have hitherto been of a restrictive character, her Majesty has received from nearly all of them assurances which induce her to hope that our example will speedily lead to a great and general diminution of those obstacles which previously existed to a free intercourse by sea between the nations of the world.

"In the summer and autumn of the past year, the United Kingdom was again visited by the ravages of the cholera; but Almighty God, in His mercy, was pleased to arrest the progress of mortality, and to stay this fearful pestilence. Her Majesty is persuaded that we shall best evince our gratitude by vigilant precautions against the more obvious causes of sickness, and an enlightened consideration for those who are most exposed to its attacks.

"Her Majesty, in her late visit to Ireland, derived the highest gratification from the loyalty and attachment manifested by all classes of her subjects. Although the effects of former years of scarcity are painfully felt in that part of the United Kingdom, they are mitigated by the present abundance of food and the tranquillity which prevails.

"Her Majesty has great satisfaction in congratulating you on the improved condition of commerce and manufactures. It is with regret that her Majesty has observed the complaints which in many parts of the kingdom have proceeded from the owners and occupiers of land. Her Majesty greatly laments that any portion of her subjects should be suffering distress; but it is a source of sincere gratification to her Majesty to witness the in-

creased enjoyment of the necessaries and comforts of life which cheapness and plenty have bestowed upon the great body of her people.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons—Her Majesty has directed the Estimates for the year to be laid before you. They have been framed with a strict regard to economy, while the efficiency of the various branches of the public service has not been neglected.

"Her Majesty has seen with satisfaction the present state of the revenue.

"My Lords and Gentlemen—Some of the measures which were postponed at the end of the last session for want of time for their consideration will be again laid before you. Among the most important of these is one for the better government of the Australian Colonies.

"Her Majesty has directed various measures to be prepared for the improvement of the condition of Ireland. The mischiefs arising from party processions, the defects of the laws regulating the relations of landlord and tenant, the imperfect state of the Grand Jury Acts, and the diminished number of electors for members to serve in Parliament, will, together with other matters of serious consequence, form the subjects of measures to be submitted for your consideration.

"Her Majesty has learned with satisfaction that the measures which have been already passed for the promotion of the public health are in a course of gradual adoption; and her Majesty trusts that, both in the Metropolis and in various parts of the United Kingdom, you will be enabled to make further progress in the removal of evils which affect the health and well-being of her subjects.

"The favour of Divine Providence has hitherto preserved this kingdom from the wars and convulsions which, during the last two years, have shaken so many of the States of the Continent of Europe. It is her Majesty's hope and belief that, by combining liberty with order, by preserving what is valuable and amending what is defective, you will sustain the fabric of our institutions as the abode and the shelter of a free and happy people."

The Earl of ESSEX moved the address, which was seconded by Lord METHEUN. The Earl of STADBROKE moved, as an amendment, the insertion of the words "great body of the people," following the passage; "But we feel compelled humbly to represent to your Majesty, that in many parts of the United Kingdom, especially in Ireland, various classes of your Majesty's subjects connected with the land are labouring under severe distress; which is attributable, in our opinion, to recent legislative enactments, and aggravated by the operation of local taxation." This amendment was seconded by the Earl of DESART. The Earl of CARLISLE opposed it. He ascribed the lowness of the price of corn to temporary causes, failure of the Irish potato crops, &c. The trade of agriculture was not decreasing; on the contrary, he understood that a greater breadth of wheat had been sown during the last year than had ever been the case before; and the applications for enclosures of land were seventy-two, affecting 48,065 acres —the largest amount for which application had been made in any one year. With regard to any change of policy founded on these complaints, whatever might be the case on the well-ordered estates of their Lordships, there was scarcely a by-lane in the rural districts, or a back street in their large towns and cities, that would not cry out loudly against any such attempts. The Duke of RICHMOND handled the usual protectionist topics. Earl FITZWILLIAM and Earl GRANVILLE supported the address; the latter declaring that the question raised by the Protectionists was exclusively one of rent. The Earl of WINCHELSEA warmly declared that the Saxon blood in the veins of the English tenantry and labourers would not let them consent to be trampled upon. Lord BROUGHAM said that free trade could not be the case of the existing distress, for the distress was much greater in France, a protected country. Lord STANLEY said that he maintained all the opinions that he had ever expressed as to practical impolicy of the experiment that had been adventured, and as to the impracticability of obtaining reciprocity from the countries which compete with us. He believed that a moderate protective duty would be advantageous to the revenue and the agriculturist without being injurious to the consumer; but he would not then call upon their lordships to interrupt the great experiment now trying. The Marquis of LANSDOWNE replied to Lord Stanley; and, on a division, the address was carried by 152 to 103.

On the 4th, Lord STANLEY questioned the government with respect to our relations with Greece. He was surprised that within twenty-four hours of her Majesty's declaration of the existence of amicable relations with all foreign powers, the public should have been informed of the blackade of the Piræus by Sir W. Parker. He asked if this step had been taken in consequence of instructions sent to the admiral; and, if such instructions had been issued, whether they would be laid before Parliament. The Marquis of LANSDOWNE replied that he hoped that the interruption of amicable relations towards Greece would be temporary, but the proceeding in question was founded on a long series of events, and that it had only been resorted to when all others had failed. He had no objection to lay the papers before the house, and he believed they would contain the fullest justification of the course adopted by the government.

On the 5th, the Bishop of LONDON moved the first reading of the *Clergy Proceedings Bill*, calling the particular attention of their lordships to a clause establishing a new tribunal for all cases of heresy and false doctrine. The Archbishop of CANTERBURY expressed a hope that the bill might be carried into law in the course of the present session; and Lord BROUGHAM expressed his high satisfaction at the measure.

Lord MONTEAGLE, after inquiring the intention of the government as to the *Railway Audit Bill*, observed that there were at this moment no less than sixty-one railway bills before the house, or in the private bill office. Earl GRANVILLE stated, that if the railway interest did not shortly propose an audit bill, he would early state what measures the government would take on the subject. The noble earl also announced, in reply to Lord Beaumont, that the government would introduce a bill similar to that of last session, to enable those companies to wind up who were unable to carry out their projects.

Some further explanations respecting the dispute with *Greece* were given, on Monday the 11th, by the Marquis of LANSDOWNE. In answer to a question from Lord Stanley, he stated that the good offices of France had been accepted by the British government, though the offer had been at first declined by Mr. Wyse, who did not know whether his acceptance would be sanctioned at home. The nature of our pecuniary claims, and the amount of our pecuniary indemnity, formed the only question on which the good offices of France had been accepted. The dispute as to the islands of Sapienza and Elaphonisi had been excluded, as resting entirely on other grounds.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE moved the second reading of the *Ecclesiastical Commission Bill*, explaining that its principal provision was for the separation of the financial from the ecclesiastical duties of the commission, the former being transferred to two paid and responsible commissioners, one to be appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the other by the crown. The bill was read a second time without opposition.

On Tuesday the 12th Earl GREY, in answer to some observations from Lord STANLEY respecting the late disputes in consequence of *Transporting Convicts to the Cape*, observed that the order in council, which had now been revoked, was never intended as the foundation of a system. The government had no intention of transmitting convicts to any colony which had not expressed its willingness to receive them. But there were special circumstances of difficulty attending the disposal of the Irish *detenus* in Bermuda, who were very different from the ordinary class of convicts, and for whom it was thought no unfairness towards the inhabitants of the Cape to provide an asylum in the colony.

On Thursday the 14th, the Earl of LUCAN, in moving for certain returns relative to the Irish poor law, referred to the debts that almost every union had incurred throughout the country. He wished to know what was to be done to extinguish those debts? Great destitution prevailed everywhere. Even magistrates on the bench,

possessed of large landed properties, were very generally insolvent, and many estates did not produce food enough to maintain the animals upon them.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE was happy to say that matters were improving. Returns made up to the 5th of January last, showed a diminution of expenditure upon relief of fully one-third. Affairs might right themselves in time without any extraordinary measures being necessary. All the papers asked for, and many others on the same subject, would be laid on the table in the course of a few days.

On Monday the 18th, Lord STANLEY brought forward his charges against the Lord Lieutenant and the Lord Chancellor of Ireland for their official conduct in regard to *The Collision at Dolly's Brae*. The house was uncommonly full; many ladies were present, and the space below the bar for members of the House of Commons was crowded to suffocation. Lord Stanley prefaced his motion (which was formally for the production of papers, but was virtually for a vote of censure of the government) by a speech of three hours' duration. He premised that he did not wish to cast any imputation upon Lord Clarendon's motive; being satisfied that on this occasion, as on every other in the period during which the Lord Lieutenant had been in his high office, his main desire had been to act in consistency with his own duty and for the welfare and tranquillity of Ireland. In proof of Lord Stanley's own aversion to party processions in Ireland, he reminded their lordships that he was the individual minister who brought in the Processions Act, which continued in healthful operation from 1832 to 1844. Rapidly recalling the facts of the collision on the 12th of July, he also admitted that at the end of the unfortunate transaction there did occur scenes of retaliation and retribution such as he could neither palliate nor justify. He recounted the commissioning of Mr. Berwick; the refusal by the Castlewellan magistrates to take the informations proffered at Sessions; the dismissal of Lord Roden and the Messrs. William and Francis Beers from the magistracy. Admitting, perhaps, a *primâ facie* case against Mr. William Beers, he could make out no shadow of charge against Mr. Francis Beers, whom Mr. Berwick himself reports to have co-operated with the stipendiary magistrate in preventing collision, and to have been most active in restoring peace and saving life afterwards. But if he admitted *all* the facts, he found no justification for the course pursued. The magistrates were justified in supposing that the procession was legal: they consulted the government itself, and learned that party processions as such were not illegal since the expiry of the Processions Act; the government stipendiary magistrates themselves acted on that opinion; and though the Government was expressly warned oftener than once that a collision was to be apprehended on this occasion, they took not a step, such as former governments had taken, to warn the magistrates of their duty, or to inhibit them from that which they are now dismissed for having sanctioned. As military and police attended the procession, instead of preventing it, there wanted no fact to make the magistrates certain that their proceedings were under the very sanction and protection of government. The commission issued to Mr. Berwick was unconstitutional: it presumed a power of delegating functions which the Lord Lieutenant does not possess. Mr. Berwick had no right to administer an oath; the witnesses before him could not be indicted for perjury, and they were throwing out calumnies on the characters of individuals without that check. In professing to lay before the Lord Lieutenant the "material" portion of the evidence, he garbled and perverted it. For example he omitted the essential fact that Mr. W. Beers remonstrated with the Orangemen on their turning to repel the attack made by the Ribandmen; he related how an idiot was barbarously killed by the beating in of his skull,—the fact being that a bullet was the cause of death, and troops of horse had passed over the man's body; he considered it doubtful which party it was that fired the squib and fired the first two shots,—although a number of the soldiery unconnected with that part of the country swore positively they saw the squib fired on the hill, and then saw two Ribandmen fire the first two shots, the only evidence in contradiction being that of persons whom he elsewhere says he did not believe. These facts appear in detail from the sworn verbatim report of a short-hand writer who attended the investigation. The Lord Lieutenant recommended that the three magistrates should be dismissed, for reasons which he stated; the Lord Chancellor executed the dismissal as if he had been a mere ministerial officer, without inquiry or deliberation. Mr. Berwick had laid down the law, that all bodies of men assembled under circumstances to excite terror and endanger the public peace are illegal and should be suppressed; and that any body of private persons combined even for an innocent and lawful object, proceeding to effect their object with a determination to resist opposers by force, is dangerous to the public peace, and the abettors are answerable: this doctrine is a monstrous contradiction to the fundamental principle that every Englishman may defend himself, his family, and property, by numbers and arms. Nothing would have been easier than to apply to the Court of Queen's Bench for a mandamus compelling the magistrates to receive the informations; but to this day no such application has been made, and to this day the informations are refused. This fact proves, beyond doubt, that the magistrates are deemed to have made a proper exercise of their legal discretion in refusing the informations; and, if they have so acted, that the Court of Queen's Bench would not question their discretion, the government having acted with tyranny and injustice in dismissing them.—Lord CLARENDON prefaced his "few remarks upon the speech of his noble friend" by a protest that his attendance in Parliament should not be considered a precedent for a Lord Lieutenant to appear there in person to answer attacks upon his administration. He then went over the ground traversed by Lord Stanley, with explanatory and corrective statements. Since the expiry of the Processions Act, party processions had been looked upon not as necessarily or *à priori, illegal*, but liable to become so according to the character they assume. It was the opinion of every sound lawyer, that if they inspired reasonable terror among the peaceable, they were illegal. The Messieurs Beers deliberately prearranged and led a procession, though they had twelve months' notice that it would probably induce a breach of the peace. The government had the fullest private information as regarding Dolly's Brae, and expected a great demonstration on the 12th of July; but they had no information of the special intentions in particular localities. Lord Clarendon himself had superintended the arrangements for preventing disturbance; sending down experienced police inspectors, a body of that force, and a body of military. The procession marched; after it had passed Dolly's Brae the first time, the stipendiary magistrates became apprehensive of collision. Mr. Fitzmaurice urged Lord Roden to prevent the return of the procession by the same way; but no effort was made by either Lord Roden or the Messieurs Beers to prevent it, although the latter admitted that he could perhaps have prevented it. It must be left to the local magistracy to determine what is necessary for conserving the peace, the government supplying the means: if they prearrange and sanction that which leads to danger, and afterwards, when the danger is pointed out, do nothing to prevent it, they are unworthy to remain in the commission of the peace. As to the nature of Mr. Berwick's inquiry, it had been sanctioned not only by successive governments and Parliaments, but by Lord Stanley himself, in the Maghery and Portglenone cases, when he was Irish Secretary, in 1830—1832. Moreover, Mr. Berwick was himself put in the commission of the peace. The Lord Chancellor was recommended to dismiss the magistrates; and he was enabled to act on that recommendation the same day, because he had himself come to the determination to do so, on investigation of proofs. The weight of those proofs was not impeached by criticism of Mr. Berwick's report in comparison with the short-hand notes. The government had information that those notes were grossly false, and that it had been falsely sworn that they were taken in court; and Lord Clarendon lamented that upon evidence such as this a man of high judicial character and of unimpeachable conduct should have been charged

with garbling and suppressing testimony. In reference to the dismissal of Lord Roden, Lord Clarendon expressed himself as follows:—"My lords, when Mr. Berwick's report came into my hands, I am bound to say that I perused its contents with very great regret: the opinion which I formed from it with reference to the noble earl, I communicated to my noble friend at the head of the government; from whom and his colleagues, including the noble lord on the woolsack, it received the most anxious and careful consideration. The result was, that they appealed to me on the necessity of superseding the noble earl in the commission of the peace; and, my lords, I must say that to me it was a most painful act to execute. I had long been honoured with the friendship of the noble earl. From the moment that I had gone to Ireland until then I had received from him acts of the most useful character. I felt the most sincere respect for him. I knew how much his dismissal would be resented by his numerous friends, and the unpopularity I should earn for myself, even among those who were not his friends throughout the North of Ireland. I felt and I foresaw all that: but still there was one feeling superior even to that—a feeling of duty; a feeling from which I did not venture to shrink, and by which I need not assure your lordships I was alone actuated in the course that I adopted. Ever since the government of Ireland was confided to my care, my great object was to render the law a reality—to inspire all classes of the community with confidence in the impartial administration of justice—to convince them that before the law all men were equal; and that, whether high or low, rich or poor, the same justice should be meted out to all. And I should have felt ashamed of myself, and unworthy the confidence of my sovereign, if I had decided in a manner different with respect to the noble earl, to that in which I should have decided in the case of any other man; or if I had allowed for one moment any personal consideration to interfere with what I believed the justice of the case required." Lord Clarendon entered into explanations with regard to the allegation that he had furnished, or been privy to furnishing, the Orangemen with arms in the year 1848. He read passages from a private letter by Captain Kennedy, now serving in India, which showed that *he*, the captain himself, really furnished the money [600*l.*] from his own pocket. Lord Clarendon wound up these explanations with this assurance—"I hope it is sufficient for me to give my solemn assurance, that during the whole time I have held office, I never, directly or indirectly, have given a weapon, or a shilling to purchase one, to any person in Ireland." In conclusion, he declared his opinion, that had it not been for this unfortunate rencontre and its consequences, their lordships would have had the satisfaction to know that Ireland is now more free, on the whole, from religious as well as political agitation and agrarian outrage than at any period within recollection. Twenty years of political agitation destructive of industrial prosperity, and a calamity unparalleled for magnitude in ancient or modern history, had left much distress to be relieved. Let us hope (he said) that the worst is over, and that the earnest exertions of all classes for the common good may commence that social regeneration with which the best interests of England as well as Ireland are inseparably connected.—The Earl of RODEN repeated his complaint that he had been harshly treated by the government, and particularly by his noble friend the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; whom nevertheless he had always esteemed, and from whom he had received many acts of kindness. —The Earl of WINCHILSEA and Lord ABINGER addressed the house briefly in condemnation of the Government.—Lord BROUGHAM amusingly satirised the volatility of the Irish, and their way of going to these processions with their Bibles and their blunderbusses, just as if they were going to a picnic; and he gave his opinion, that substantial justice has been done and a right course pursued by the government and Lord Clarendon in this case.—The Marquis of CLANRICARDE stated, that in every step which his noble friend the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland had taken on this subject, he had the entire co-operation, and the fullest approbation of her Majesty's government.—Lord STANLEY professed himself well satisfied with the result of the debate; and the motion for papers, unopposed by Ministers, was agreed to by the house.

The Earl of DESART, on Thursday, the 21st, in bringing forward his motion on the *Irish Poor Law*, enlarged on the ruin to which the extension of out-door relief was reducing that country. One hundred and five unions were insolvent in 1849. Proprietors were encumbered and tenants impoverished by the rapidly-increasing demands for the poor-rate, which had been to a great degree levied from the capital instead of the income of the soil, and inflicted immeasurable injury to a multitude of industrious occupiers. Of the three classes of districts in Ireland, the solvent, the struggling, and the insolvent, the ministry should, as far as possible, relieve the weight which might sink the two former into the abyss of pauperism. For the third, and largest class, the only remedies were to direct labour into profitable channels, and stimulate emigration. His lordship then moved the resolution which embodied the principle that in-door relief should alone be sanctioned throughout the Irish unions. The Marquis of LANSDOWNE argued that out-door relief was justified by its absolute necessity, but by that alone. To remedy Irish evils, two measures had recently been passed—the advances for improvements, and the encumbered estates acts. Both of these had worked exceedingly well. Other tokens, especially the diminution in the charges for pauper relief, proved that prospects had begun to brighten in that country. After some observations from Lord Monteagle, the Earl of Wicklow, Lord Stanley, and Earl Grey, the Earl of Desart withdrew his proposition.

The *Ecclesiastical Commission Bill* was considered in committee, on Monday, the 25th. The twelfth clause, consolidating the episcopal and common fund, was opposed by Earl POWIS, who proposed an amendment, re-asserting the promise contained in the preamble, to erect the bishopric of Manchester. On a division, this amendment was carried by 31 to 26. The Bishop of SALISBURY opposed clause 15, reducing the future incomes of certain deaneries, and proposed an amendment, which without cutting down the existing incomes of deaneries, rendered the holding of distant parochial benefices incompatible with cathedral preferment. The amendment was opposed by the Marquis of LANSDOWNE, but was carried by 21 to 19. Some clauses were then proposed by the Bishop of Oxford, and agreed to.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on the 31st of January, *the Address* was moved by Mr. Charles VILLIERS. He argued at considerable length, that every prediction made by the advocates of free trade, in commerce and navigation, had been fulfilled, and that every prediction made by the advocates of protection had been nullified. He read copious shipping statistics, showing that in Liverpool the vessels building had increased from 2,229 tons at the beginning of 1849, to 2,850 now; with similar increase in other ports. He also cited statistics to show that pauperism and crime were decreasing, that employment was increasing, and food abundant: more food had been imported during the last sixteen months, than was imported in the sixteen years before,—namely, at the rate of 1,000,000 quarters of corn a month. He calculated the amount of saving to the country in 1849 from the diminution in prices of food, as compared with those of 1847. The average price of wheat had fallen from 69*s.* 5*d.* to 39*s.* 4*d.*; barley, from 37*s.* to 25*s.*; oats, from 28*s.* to 15*s.*; beans, from 40*s.* to 26*s.*; peas, from 39*s.* to 29*s.* 6*d.*: he took the consumption of wheat at 20,000,000 quarters; barley, 20,000,000 quarters; oats, peas, and beans, at 20,000,000 quarters: at the different prices, the gross saving on all those kinds is 61,000,000*l.* At a low estimate, the corresponding diminution on butter, cheese, potatoes, and other vegetables, amounted to 30,000,000*l.*; making an entire saving of not less than 91,000,000*l.* sterling. He regretted the existence of agricultural distress; but as a proof that the farmers did not despond, he observed that land fetched as high a price in the market as ever it did. He denied that the land has peculiar burdens; it had, on the contrary, peculiar exemptions; and in facilities—as to the manner of farming, the neighbourhood of markets, and ready communication—the land of Great Britain had advantages superior to that of other countries.—Sir James

DUKE seconded the address. Sir John TROLLOPE moved an amendment similar to that moved in the Lords: it was supported by Colonel CHATTERTON.—Sir Charles WOOD supported the address, in a speech full of statistical details.—The amendment was supported by Mr. H. Herbert, Sir John Walsh, and Mr. Grantley Berkeley. The debate was adjourned.

It was resumed on the 1st of February. The amendment was supported by the Marquis of Granby, Mr. Christopher, Mr. R. Palmer, Mr. Herries, Mr. Disraeli, and Mr. H. Drummond; and opposed by Mr. E. Denison, Lord Norreys, Captain Pelham, Mr. M'Cullagh, Mr. Labouchere, Lord John Russell, Mr. Cobden, and Colonel Thompson. The most notable speeches were those of Mr. Disraeli and Lord John Russell.—Mr. DISRAELI solemnly called upon the prime minister to say whether ministers intended to emancipate every branch of industry, while the land alone was to be their slave and their victim.—Lord John RUSSELL replied sarcastically (alluding to a proposition that had been made by Mr. Disraeli) that ministers had no intention of proposing an increase on the land tax. Lord John observed that he was at one time in favour of a compromise on the question of the corn-laws—a fixed duty might have stayed the proceedings of the Anti-Corn-law League; but now, when the change had been followed by a period of unusual prosperity, it was not a time to go back; and the decision of the house that night would determine, by continuing that course of peace and prosperity or abandoning it, not only whether they should advance the welfare of the people and the fortunes of the state, but also whether their example should be beneficial or injurious to mankind.—The amendment was negatived by 311 to 192: a majority for ministers of 119.

On Monday, the 4th, Mr. GREENE read a letter respecting the *New House of Commons*, from Mr. Barry, the architect, stating that the house itself might be got ready for members during the present session, but that the adjuncts (the committee-rooms, refreshment-rooms, &c.) would require considerable time, and that if a sufficient vote were immediately granted (a suggestion at which the house laughed heartily) Mr. Barry would undertake that all should be ready by the first day of next session.—In answer to a question from Mr. Milner Gibson, as to the rumoured state of affairs in *Greece*, Lord PALMERSTON briefly stated that differences had arisen, and that Admiral Parker had received orders to assist Mr. Wyse in bringing about a satisfactory termination to those differences. The government had received an account of an interview between Mr. Wyse and the representatives of the Greek government, which had ended unpleasantly, and "here," added Lord Palmerston (amid the laughter of the house) "the accounts break off."—On the report on the address being brought up, Mr. Disraeli reverted to the subject of *Greece;* and elicited from Lord Palmerston a fuller account of the alleged grievances for which redress had been demanded from the Greek government. In the first place (Lord Palmerston said) there is a Mr. Finlay, [a British subject,] who has been long established in Greece, and who some time since had lands there, part of which was taken forcibly from him for the purpose of forming a portion of the gardens of the palace which King Otho was then building. Mr. Finlay has been for a long course of time, supported by her Majesty's representatives, endeavouring to obtain proper payment for the land so taken. That payment, however, has never been got. The other case is that of a Gibraltar subject—not a Portuguese jew, as stated by my honourable friend—of the name of Pacifico. His house in Athens was violently broken into at mid-day by a mob, of which part were soldiers, in the service of the King of Greece, some gendarmes; the son of the minister of war encouraging them. There were besides, Ionian subjects, who upon different occasions were the victims either of plunder or corporal ill-usage, for whom also compensation and indemnity has been required. With respect to the other and separate question about the two islands of Elaphonisi and Sapienza, Lord PALMERSTON made this statement—"By the treaty between Russia and the Porte, signed in 1800, the Ionian State was constituted with the consent of the Sultan; and that State was to consist of certain islands therein named, and of all other islands and islets lying between those islands and the coast of Greece, up to a certain point. In pursuance of that treaty, the two islands in question, Elaphonisi and Sapienza—two very small islands, though from circumstances one of them is of importance—were by name aggregated to two of the larger islands named in the treaty; and those islands have ever since been considered by the Porte, and have been considered by the sovereign of Greece, as part of the Ionian States. When the treaty of 1830 was signed, by which the Greek State was constituted, the territories of that state were specified as consisting of certain portions of the continent, and of certain islands; those islands did not include the islands of Elaphonisi and Sapienza. There can, therefore, be no doubt whatever that those islands have been, ever since the treaty of 1800, confirmed by the treaty of 1815, and that they are portions of the Ionian States."—A number of desultory comments on portions of the queen's speech were made by different members; after which the report was agreed to.

On Tuesday the 5th, Mr. HORSMAN made the motion, of which he had given notice, respecting the *Ecclesiastical Commission*. It was to the effect that three paid commissioners should be appointed for the management of the property under the commission. He enlarged upon the importance of the commission, and the necessity for parliamentary watchfulness upon it. He said that the church was now convinced that the spiritual duties of her bishops were enough for them; that they were giving up their time to secular matters elsewhere; which laymen could attend to quite as well, and that they were in London instead of their provinces. That another party (his own) treated the question on higher grounds, considering that the vast financial affairs of the church were beneath the office of the bishop, who ought not to be a "server of tables," but should be at home, studying the character of his clergy, and generally regulating the diocese in his charge. That a third party judged the question upon the fact that the hierarchy had completely failed in their duties as commissioners. All confidence in our prelates was destroyed, and the whole body of the English clergy wished them to retire from the commission. But the bishops were unwilling to lose their hold upon the grasp of the goods of the church, and an appeal to parliament became necessary. He then traced the history of the commission, and described its composition and duties. He dwelt upon the vicious system of administration adopted by it, and the carelessness, extravagance, injustice, and blundering arising therefrom. The commissioners had squandered the "treasury of the poor." He showed that no member of the board could possibly become master of the business on which he had to decide, and that the only person who could understand it was the secretary (Mr. Murray), who, practically, had become the commission. From 1836 to 1845, the commission allowed the secretary to receive all the money coming to it by virtue of its powers, to pay that money into his private banker's, to draw upon it by his cheques, and to administer it without any supervision—the fund amounting to 1,000,000*l*. Mr. Horsman then contrasted the aroused religious feeling of the lower clergy and lay members of the church with the apathy and neglect manifested by the hierarchy. The commission had become bankrupt, and the secretary had "bolted" with whatever money he could lay his hands on. No successor had been appointed. The honourable member then sketched the history of the committee upon the commission, bringing forward the fact that all the commissioners who were members of this house were chosen upon the committee, which was to inquire into their own proceedings. This very committee, thus constituted, unanimously condemned the constitution of the commission, the cabinet ministers joining in that condemnation.—Sir George GREY, in opposing the motion, contradicted certain statements made Mr. Horsman as to the terms on which the committee had been granted. He concurred with Mr. Horsman as to the substratum of some of his charges, and he thought the composition of the commission objectionable from its numbers. It was true that the secretary to the com-

mission had gone off, but with not more than 7000*l*. No successor had been or would be appointed at present. Sir George repelled Mr. Horsman's sarcasms against the prelates. They had done incalculable good, and had themselves contributed liberally to objects of the commission. There was, however, much room for improvement. He then met Mr. Horsman's criticisms on the committee, and defended its composition. He, as a member of it, differed from the interpretation put upon its opinion by Mr. Horsman, and read the words, which will be found in their place in our report. He contended that the committee did not recommend the appointment of such commissioners, as described in Mr. Horsman's motion, but a subdivision of labour, which the bill already alluded to, and founded substantively upon the opinion of the committee, had been intended to effect, and to reduce the working number of the commission, which he (Sir George) considered the great evil. A bill for this purpose was already before the other house, and he was not disposed to anticipate that house's proceedings. Let the House of Commons wait and see that bill, and not commit itself beforehand. Sir George then severely reprobated a letter written by Mr. Horsman to his constituents, upon the subject, accusing Sir George Grey of gross dishonesty; but he said he would not condescend to reply to statements Mr. Horsman had not presumed to repeat in his (Sir George's) presence.—The debate was continued by Mr. HUME, Mr. AGLIONBY, and Mr. MANGLES, in support of the motion; and by Sir R. INGLIS, in opposition to it. Finally, Mr. HORSMAN withdrew the motion, stating that Sir G. Grey had given him a good reason for his doing so.

Sir R. H. INGLIS, in moving for papers in reference to *Sir John Franklin's Expedition*, said his obect was not only to obtain them, but to elicit from the house an expression of sympathy in the objects referred to in them, and to urge the government to take such further measures as might be advisable in pursuing the search for Sir John Franklin. He made several suggestions in regard to the mode of prosecuting this search. A conversation took place, in which Mr. ANSTEY, Sir F. BARING, and Mr. WYLD took part, and the papers were ordered.

On Wednesday the 6th, Mr. HAWES moved the reappointment of the select committee of last session on the grievances complained of in *Ceylon*. In answer to Mr. HUME, he explained that Guiana was left out of the motion this year, because the committee had fully reported upon that colony.—Mr. BAILLIE complained that the governor and attorney-general of British Guiana had accused him of making speeches, in reference to the salary of officials there, for the sake of misleading the house. He said he had obtained his information from the under-secretary of the colonies, who must have received his own from Guiana. He then adverted to the Ceylon question. Government had, in the opinion of Mr. Hume and of himself, insulted the late Ceylon committee as never committee had been insulted before. Government had promised every facility to that committee for the examination of witnesses, and then, when the committee, through its chairman, sent a list of witnesses whom it considered absolutely essential to send from Ceylon, Earl Grey announced that two witnesses had already been ordered to England, and that he should not recognise the right of the chairman of a committee to dictate to the secretary of state as to what witnesses should be summoned before it. But (added Mr. Baillie), when these witnesses should be examined, the proceedings of Marshal Haynau in suppressing a bloody revolution in Hungary would seem mild and legal compared to the acts of our officers in Ceylon, where a harmless riot, without loss of life, was all that had occurred. He read Captain Watson's proclamation, asking whether it seemed directed against mad dogs or human beings, and he narrated several incidents of the executions in Ceylon, showed their hasty and wanton character (many men having been put to death by mistake, and others from erroneous identification), and concluded by demanding that, if we had an inquiry at all, it should be an impartial and not an *ex parte* one.—Mr. HAWES denied the statements made by Mr. Baillie, and described the case of the Ceylon grievances as the result of a mean conspiracy in the island. He affirmed that every facility had been given for a fair inquiry, and that there had been no refusal of witnesses; and concluded by saying that if the committee were reappointed, it should not be the fault of any one connected with the government if this inquiry was not prosecuted to its utmost legitimate extent.—Mr. HUME commented with indignation on the unblushing effrontery with which it had been asserted by Mr. Hawes that this inquiry arose from "a mean conspiracy on the part of certain individuals in Ceylon": had a "mean conspiracy" brought, 5000 petitioners in one case and 39,000 in another, to ask that house for redress? He had not the least confidence in the secretary of state for the colonies; believing that every possible means would be taken to cloak the atrocities committed, if the inquiry were allowed to stand over another session. Up to this hour the means taken had been to stop the course of justice. He understood that letters had been sent to all justices of the peace in Ceylon, requiring them not to take any affidavits that were against the government, but only such as were on the other side. He could prove himself, that one honourable and distinguished gentleman who had been named as a witness had been threatened that if he ventured to go to England and give evidence on a subject on which he was understood to have expressed himself freely, charges would be brought against himself. In a variety of cases intimidation had been used; and he would also show that those who had served the evil cause of despotism were rewarded by office, and were now enjoying the fruits of their acts.—Mr. DISRAELI accused Mr. Hawes of having transposed all the documents he read, so as to convey an impression opposite to the truth. He proposed to add to the words of the motion an expression of disapprobation of the conduct of ministers.—Lord John RUSSELL repeated and supported the statements of Mr. Hawes.—Sir James GRAHAM bore testimony to the honourable character of Lord John Russell, and would not believe that he would sanction any interference with a due Parliamentary inquiry. He therefore opposed Mr. Disraeli's amendment. The house divided on this amendment, which was negatived by 140 to 68.—Mr. HUME then moved that the witnesses required by the committee should be sent for by that day's India mail: his motion was rejected by 109 to 100.

On Monday 7th Lord Dudley STUART moved an address for correspondence relating to the *Affairs of Hungary*. This motion he supported at great length, recapitulating the history of the Hungarian constitution and national development; the history of the recent unsuccessful war of independence, and the atrocities committed in Hungary by Austrian officers. He rejoiced at the check which had been given to the insolent claim for the extradition of the Hungarian refugees; but he did not think that our fleet in the Dardanelles had obtained all that might have been obtained.—Lord PALMERSTON said in reply, that the active interference of the British Government had necessarily been restrained within limits perhaps too narrow. Turkey had fulfilled the convention with Russia, mutually to reduce their forces in the Danubian Provinces to the amount of 10,000 each; and it was his conviction that Russia was about to carry that convention into execution. He explained how the Sultan had not imprisoned the Hungarian refugees, but removed them from the frontier, and placed them under surveillance. It was the wish of her Majesty's government to give all the information of these transactions which it might be consistent with the public interests, and consistent with the courtesies due between governments and countries, to afford; but there were substantial reasons why it was not in his power to accede to the motion in its original form. He hoped that Lord D. Stuart would allow him to submit to the house such portions of the papers as could be laid upon the table without being injurious to the public interests.—In the debate which succeeded, Lord Dudley Stuart was supported by Mr. Anstey, Mr. Cockburn, Sir De Lacy Evans, Mr. Monckton Milnes, and Mr. Grattan; opposed by Lord Claude Hamilton and Mr Disraeli.—Lord Dudley STUART having observed that he was not satisfied with the power of Turkey to protect the detained refugees, for Austria was unscrupulous, and attempts had already been made (by persons with

Austrian passports) to assassinate Kossuth by poison—Lord Claude HAMILTON said, with much warmth, that he believed this charge to be a base calumny against a faithful ally;—on which Mr. GRATTAN, as an Irishman, disclaimed the sentiments of Lord C. Hamilton, whose parasitical adulation of a band of assassins he utterly condemned. He had read an account of the alleged flogging of an Hungarian Countess by Austrian soldiers. "What would his lordship say," he exclaimed, "if the Marchioness of Abercorn (Lord C. Hamilton's relative) were to be flogged in a square by the Guards in Birdcage Walk? What if the *Duchess* of Devonshire were to be?"—a supposition at the suggestion of which the house roared with laughter, Mr. Grattan declaring that the laughers ought to be "spit upon by the children in the streets." The motion was then withdrawn.

In moving the re-introduction of his *Marriages Bill*, [to abrogate the prohibition of marriage between a widower and his wife's sister,] Mr. Stuart WORTLEY briefly explained the principal alterations that he had made in it: one would render valid such measures as had been recently contracted; the other removed from the bill the compulsion on the clergy to celebrate such marriages.—Sir Robert INGLIS obstinately resisted the bill, on the old grounds.—Mr. Sidney HERBERT would not oppose a re-introduced bill at that stage—the less since it was no longer proposed to alter the ecclesiastical law. On a division, leave to bring in the bill was voted by 149 to 65.

In a committee of the whole house on Friday the 8th, Lord J. RUSSELL made a statement of the *Colonial Policy* of government. After a general sketch of the history of the colonies, he described the political state of each colony separately. As to Canada, he said, its constitution was well known; and it was only necessary for him to add, in reference to the idle threats of annexation to the United States, that the discontented parties were too well aware of the determined will of the sovereign and her advisers to think they would ever be permitted to execute their threat. If the present ministers in Canada met with proper support (as seemed probable) they would remain in office; if not, the governor-general would call in others in accordance with the Canadian constitution. It had been resolved to introduce representative institutions into our Cape colony, where an assembly and also a legislative council would be established. New South Wales was to have a single council, one third of its members to be appointed by government, and two-thirds to be elected; but the colony was to have the power hereafter, of demanding two chambers if it wished. Customs-duties were to be settled by themselves. Port Philip was to be separated from New South Wales, and to form a distinct district; and, in addition to the introduction of free institutions into Van Diemen's Land, South Australia was to have a representative body. Into New Zealand the governor had already introduced a legislative system, and had reported in favour of a representative one, which would, after some further information, be granted to that colony. The exception to the representative rule would be in the cases where we had only military stations, or where the races were mingled in a way which rendered such institions impossible. Barbadoes and Jamaica had long enjoyed their own governments. Trinidad was to have a municipal council in aid of the executive, and so was Mauritius. Malta was to have elective members added to its council. His lordship then went, at some length, into the British Guiana question, and said that a species of oligarchy was paramount there; but by an infusion of new electors it must be broken down, and this had been done to a certain extent, and the reform would have a still further effect. He referred to the recent debate upon this subject as an illustration of the ignorance and inconsistency of certain opponents of government. He then made some general remarks on the question of transportation and emigration; and concluded a speech which occupied more than two hours and a quarter, and which was listened to by a full house with great attention, by saying that the two principles upon which the colonial policy of the present government was founded, were the maintenance of the free-trade system to its fullest extent, and the establishment, wherever it was possible, of political freedom. In the desultory debate which ensued, Sir William MOLESWORTH agreed with many points of Lord John's speech, but did not clearly understand his policy as a whole, and could not yet put faith in the promises of the Colonial Office, especially those relating to Australia. Other speakers expressed satisfaction with Lord John's progress in opinion, but took exceptions to his shortcomings. Mr. ROEBUCK could not understand why Lord John reversed in New South Wales the just conclusion to which he had arrived in South Africa with respect to an elective second chamber. Mr. ANSTEY claimed greater liberty for Van Diemen's Land; Mr. BAILLIE, for British Guiana; Mr. SCOTT, for New South Wales; Mr. AGLIONBY, for New Zealand. Mr. GLADSTONE and Mr. HUME argued for a complete extension of the British constitution, with its two chambers, to the representative colonies generally. Mr. ROEBUCK, Mr. GLADSTONE, and Mr. ADDERLEY, showed that the Colonial Reform Society had already produced fruits in the new impulse given to the government. It had led to the new constitution for the Cape; the idea of which was conceived by the committee of the Board of Trade in January. Mr. HAWES was again convicted of misquoting or garbling; he read an extract from a despatch as confirming his assertion that the governor of Van Diemen's Land was in favour of a single chamber; but Mr. GLADSTONE showed that he had only read from the preface to the governor's declaration, which was in these words—"I should most strenuously recommend the adoption of a second or upper chamber." The committee unanimously passed the following resolutions, to be reported on Monday: "1. That provision be made for the better government of her Majesty's Australian colonies. 2. That the governors and legislative councils of her Majesty's Australian colonies be authorised to impose and levy duties and customs on goods, wares, and merchandise imported into such colonies."

On Monday the 11th, the *Personal Dispute between Mr. Horsman and Lord John Russell* was amicably settled. Lord ASHLEY introduced the matter by saying that he did not think a committee the proper tribunal to settle the question, and that, as the differences must have arisen from misunderstanding, he proposed that the matter should go no further.—Mr. HORSMAN regretted that some of his expressions had been misunderstood. He believed that Lord J. Russell had not deliberately attempted to deceive him, but had availed himself of the forms of the house to annoy him, being irritated at his perseverance. He admitted that he had often given provocation, but would always avoid doing so in future.—Lord J. RUSSELL said that nothing could be more satisfactory; he had no doubt of Mr. Horsman's motives as regarded his public conduct, but he and Mr. Horsman were in somewhat different positions, and it was his (Lord John's) duty, when introducing a bill to the house, to satisfy all parties of its justice.—Sir G. GREY also expressed his entire satisfaction at what had passed, and added that he should make it his study to convince Mr. Horsman of the sincerity of his intentions. —Thus the affair ended.

Before the house proceeded to the nomination of the *Ceylon Committee*, Lord John RUSSELL called the attention of the house to some observations made by Mr. Baillie upon Captain Watson, with respect to a proclamation alleged to have been issued by that officer in Ceylon; and read a letter from Captain Watson to Earl Grey, declaring that the document was utterly spurious; that he had never issued nor authorised such a proclamation.—Mr. BAILLIE said he had received the proclamation from Ceylon, with the signature of Captain Watson, in his own handwriting, or what purported to be his handwriting, attached to it.—The select committee of last Session was then re-appointed.

On the motion for the second reading of the *Pirate (Head-Money) Repeal Bill*, Sir Francis BARING explained, that though it repeals the existing acts, it does not preclude the Admiralty from making allowances of the nature of head-money; it would not, therefore, remove from officers and men of the navy the expectation of such rewards for valuable services in the capture of pirates as the old law entitled them to. He proposed to leave in the hands of the Admiralty a large discretionary power to be exercised in communication with

the Treasury. For the recent suppression of piratical forces, he feared he should have to call on the house for a pretty large vote—as much, he feared, as 100,000*l.*—Mr. HUME apprehended that something had been kept back, and would ask for full information before the half of 100,000*l.* were voted.—Mr. COBDEN and Colonel THOMPSON desiderated evidence that the aboriginal tribes whom we have been slaughtering are really pirates—that they have ever molested English commerce: they do not appear to have been other than tribes in a state of barbarism carrying on war with each other.—The second reading of the bill passed unopposed.

The house then went into committee on Mr. LABOUCHERE'S resolutions for the improvement of our *Maritime Legislation;* when he explained his several propositions for improving the merchant marine, for better organising and managing the Merchant Seamen's Fund, and for better determining the admeasurement of merchant shipping. His explanations and proposals were in general favourably received; the chief doubts coming from Sir George CLERK, Mr. W. FAGAN, and Mr. CARDWELL, on his proposals regarding the Seamen's Fund.—Mr. HUME and Mr. HEADLAM cordially approved of his proposed abolition of the present system of registration.—The resolutions were agreed to; and leave was given to bring in bills in accordance with them.

The second reading of the *County Rates and Expenditure Bill* was moved on Wednesday, the 13th, by Mr. Milner GIBSON, who explained that its general purport was to provide for the regulation of county expenditure a series of councils analogous to the borough councils, which held authority over borough expenditure. His object was not to supersede the county justices, but to give a concurrent control over the county rates to a board who should be elected by and represent the great body of ratepayers. The judicial functions of the magistrates would remain wholly untouched. He proceeded to rebut the accusation of inconsistency brought against him on a former day by Mr. Disraeli, as having required, on behalf of the occupier, a control over taxes, which, by his own doctrines, fell solely on the landlords. He showed how far the occupiers were interested in the question; and submitted that in the rapid expansion of the rates that often took place within the period of a single year, the tenants bore the whole increase of the burdens.—Mr. SPOONER deprecated hasty legislation on this subject, and moved the adjournment of the debate.—Sir G. GREY thought the proposal for adjournment not unreasonable, considering the magnitude of the interests involved in the bill. An early expression of the opinion of the legislature was, however, very desirable.—Eventually the debate was adjourned to Wednesday, the 13th of March.

Mr. Cornewall LEWIS moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws respecting the management of the *Highways of England and Wales.* He explained the main provisions of the bill to be, the vesting of the power now in the ratepayers at large in the boards of poor-law guardians, and the appointment of paid district surveyors in lieu of the present unpaid parochial surveyors.—Several members, among whom was Sir R. PEEL, expressed opinions generally favourable to the bill, and leave was given to introduce it.

On Thursday, the 14th, Mr. ADDERLY introduced a bill on the subject of *Convict Transportation.* Its object was to repeal the act which empowers the queen and privy council to determine the place to which felons shall be transported.—Its introduction was strongly opposed by Sir G. GREY and Lord J. RUSSELL; and leave to bring it in was refused by 110 to 32.

On Friday, the 15th, the house went into committee on the subject of the *Advances and Repayment of Advances to Ireland,* and Lord John RUSSELL made a proposal for consolidating the debts and enlarging the indulgence of time to distressed unions. He described the condition of Ireland as materially improved, as was shown by the great diminution of poor rates during the last year. The loans and advances, repayment of which was now due from Ireland, including a balance of 1,130,000*l.* granted for building workhouses in 1839, amounted, in the gross, to 4,483,000*l.* In the more distressed unions, about thirty in number, there was an amount of debt due to contractors during the famine, for food, clothing, &c., and in some cases payment had been pressed so severely that the beds of persons in the infirmary had been taken from under them: these debts amounted at the end of December last to 270,000*l.*; and some other expenses were estimated at 30,000*l.* These sums made the total liabilities 4,783,000*l.* Under the Rate-in-Aid Act, of 250,000*l.* to be repaid out of the rate-in-aid, 150,000*l.* had been repaid, and it was probable that the other amount would be forthcoming. Lord John proposed to advance the 300,000*l.* to meet the debts for the distressed unions; to convert the other debts, in places where the pressure of the poor-law is strongly felt, into consolidated annuities; and to allow forty years for the repayment by annual instalments, with interest where it is named by previous acts of Parliament, without interest where it is not so named. The resolutions were agreed to at once; but a debate arose on the question that they be reported. Some Irish members complained, with Mr. GRATTAN, that the relief was not enough; others, with Mr. MONSELL, expressed grateful satisfaction. Mr. BRIGHT insisted on a more rigid and just administration of relief; and pointed to instances, in the unions of Clifden, Ballinrobe and Castlebar, where landowners, and even county members, are open defaulters in the payment of poor-rates, and resort to various devices for the evasion of the bailiff. Several Irish members expressed great anger at this charge, and called for names; but they were not given. Mr. Bright said he had taken his information from the union-books. The resolutions were ordered to be reported on Monday next.

The *Court of Chancery* (*Ireland*) *Bill* was read a second time, after a smart debate, which consisted almost entirely in personal sparring without substantial interest.

On the motion for going into committee on the *Registrar's Office in Bankruptcy Bill,* Mr. HENLEY moved to refer it to a select committee, objecting that the union of two sinecures would have the effect of perpetuating one. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL opposed him, but, after some discussion, Mr. HENLEY'S motion was carried against the government by 61 to 57. This result was received with cheers.

On the second reading of the *Australian Colonies Bill* being moved on Monday the 18th, Mr. SCOTT moved the postponement of the second reading till further papers were produced, being of opinion that this measure required the most deliberate consideration. Mr. ROEBUCK objected to the bill on the ground that it gave power to men who did not derive their authority from the will of the colonists. This bill was the worst of all abortions ever put forth by an incompetent administration. We were taking an irrevocable step, and one which would for the future be a continual source of discontent and quarrel; whereas we ought to give the Australians really free institutions, instead of a government by the clerks of the Colonial office. He wished to understand why different measures were doled out to Australia and to the Cape? The influence of the Colonial Office was a mildew upon the colonies. Lord John RUSSELL said that he had never heard a speech so full of blunders as that of Mr. Roebuck, who, moreover, was really asking the house to set at nought the opinion of the Australians, and to force its own idea of a constitution upon them. The attacks which it was the fashion with Mr. Roebuck and others like him to assail the Colonial Office, were in truth attempts to dispute the power of the Crown. The "clerks" had literally nothing to do with any matters of decision. The object of ministers in bringing in the present bill, which was provisional in its nature, was to give increased weight to the opinion of the colonies. The people of Australia would certainly not be satisfied with the species of constitution which had been sent to the Cape; and though he (Lord J. Russell) preferred two chambers to one, it was for the Australians to decide the question. After defending the Colonial Office from Mr. Roebuck's attack, and declaring that the bill had been drawn with great care, Lord John asked the house to read it a second time. Sir W. MOLESWORTH would offer no opposition to the bill in its first stages, but claimed the opportunity of discussing in committee, questions concerning the form of government, and the powers to be delegated to the colonial authorities.

After a number of desultory remarks from various members, the bill was read a second time.

The subject of *Agricultural Distress* was brought before the house, on Tuesday the 19th, by Mr. DISRAELI, who moved for a committee to revise and amend the Poor-laws, for the purpose of affording relief to the agricultural classes. He began by admitting the fact that a large majority in both houses were disinclined to disturb, at present, the settlement lately arrived at, and his party were convinced that an abrogation of the recent legislation on the subject could not be obtained. It was necessary therefore to adapt our position to the altered state of the case, and so to revise taxation that those connected with the soil should be placed on an equality with their fellow-subjects. He denied the assertion frequently made, that the landlord class is luxurious, indolent, and aristocratic. If you divide the whole rental of England—sixty millions—by the number of proprietors—205,000—the average income of each is about 240*l.* a year; and, as many have much more, many must have much less; the truth being that they are the most thrifty, industrious, hard-living class, as a whole, in the kingdom. On the subject of the Poor-laws, he maintained that the burden of supporting the poor ought to fall equally on all, and not upon a particular class. It had been said that the land in this country was inherited subject to this and all other charges; but this was not true, at least as regarded Ireland nor Scotland, nor a considerable portion of land in England. A surprising number of very considerable estates, and some very interesting tenures, were not originally subject to this charge. He stood opposite to a noble lord, the son of one of our greatest houses—one which had used its vast possessions generally for the honour and dignity of England—which certainly did not inherit or otherwise acquire those vast possessions subject to the provisions of the 43rd Elizabeth. But in principle, if you say property *was* inherited subject to an impost, was it not also taken subject to laws which gave it an adventitious value, by securing a market and offering a bonus? With these general explanations Mr. Disraeli stated, that the first point he would consider in committee would be the charges known in Poor-law administration by the name of the establishment charges. These he would have defrayed out of general revenue of the state, after the 25th March, 1850. These are modern unlocal charges; by their transfer local burdens would be diminished about 1,500,000*l.* Secondly, he would deal with all rates raised by the Poor-law machinery which have nothing to do with the relief of the poor—excepting the police and county rates; charges for registering births and deaths, preparing jury and burgess lists, executing the Nuisances Act, the Sanatory Acts, the Vaccination Act, and such irrelevant matters: local burdens of this kind, amounting to 700,000*l.* for the United Kingdom, he would transfer to the charge of the Consolidated Fund. Lastly, he would transfer to the charge of the general revenue of the kingdom the whole cost of relieving the casual poor. This was not even, at present, a parochial charge; it was already paid out of a common fund—the union rate. These propositions were just and practicable; they destroyed no old principles or machinery; and their cost might be well discharged out of that balance in the Exchequer of which we have heard much and hope more.—Sir G. GREY rejoiced that the mountains which had been prophesied in so many county meetings had resulted in so harmless a proposition as that of Mr. Disraeli. The hon. member had based his demands upon an assumption of agricultural distress. He (Sir G. Grey) would not deny that distress existed; but he denied that it had increased. The returns of crime and pauperism were the best tests, and both concurred in proving that destitution had diminished since 1848. In passing on to the proposition of Mr. Disraeli, he signalised the important omission of any reference to the law of settlement. This law as it existed he admitted to bear heavily against the landed interest, and recommended the subject to the attention of those who had constituted themselves the protectors of British industry. Mr. Disraeli's proposals were founded upon a confusion of all descriptions of real property with the landed interest. Difficulties had always stood in the way of fairly rating personal and trading properties, and they were still insurmountable. But the burthens complained of were decreasing. Since 1813 the amount raised for the poor and county rates had diminished by nearly a million, while the population upon whom it was assessed had expanded from ten to seventeen millions, and the value of the real property chargeable had increased from fifty to ninety-one millions. Of this the land bore a rated value of only forty-three millions. The rest consisted of houses, railways, and various other forms of realised property. Land had nevertheless not decreased in absolute, but only in relative value, and, as was thus proved, had in no degree gone out of cultivation. These figures disposed of the allegation of injustice to the land in the incidence of local taxation. Sir G. GREY then commented upon Mr. Disraeli's several proposals. Instead of a million and a half, the establishment charges of England were, last year, only 700,000*l.* If this was withdrawn from local checks, considerable danger of extravagance would be incurred. Much the same might be said of the other charges included in the propositions. But on this point he would not, on the instant, declare what the government might determine when they came to decide what was to be done with the surplus revenue. He denied, however, that they differed materially in principle from other items of local taxation. The charge for the relief of the casual poor it was highly inexpedient to remove from the local control, which had effected recently a considerable economy in its distribution. Altogether, he characterised the propositions as narrow and immature. They would purchase, at a cost of much trouble and complication, a relief not exceeding threepence in the pound on the aggregate rates. Even this modicum of benefit would be monopolised by the landowner. He concluded by challenging Mr. Disraeli to reveal a little more of the threatened series—whose first member had turned out so inauspiciously and asked what had become of his sinking fund and the *ad valorem* duty.—The motion was supported by the Hon. M. CHARTERIS, Sir J. TYRELL, and Lord J. MANNERS; and opposed by Mr. HOBHOUSE and Mr. BRIGHT, who asked, how could Mr. Disraeli's proposals satisfy the clamour which the Protectionists had excited during the recess? The self-called farmers' friends did not attempt to remove the farmers' taxes by taking off the duties on tea, tobacco, and malt. Nor did they speak one word about reforming the Game-laws, or appear willing to support the tenant compensation lately introduced into the house. The true prosperity of the cultivator and the landlord would spring from the expansion of industry, the increase of population, the improvement in wages, and the reduction of crime and pauperism—results that were rapidly following as the legitimate consequences of free-trade.—Mr. H. DRUMMOND said that the farmer had been accused of not knowing his business. Were the learned men of Manchester much wiser? Did they know the scientific qualities of the pigments and drugs they used? Was not a school of design provided in pity for their ignorance? Free trade had promoted some manufactures but destroyed others. It had annihilated the farming trade, cut down half the value of timber and bark, and reduced the produce of all the land in England from 80*s.* to 40*s.* an acre. The destruction of property on one side had surpassed its increase on another, and the whole system was one of class legislation. This was the first skirmish of the battle. The terms of free trade and protection were the watchwords of the struggle between capital and labour, between wealth and life. He should vote for the propositions of Mr. Disraeli, but would vote also for placing the burdens upon the property of the rich, leaving the poor man free to drink untaxed beer, to build with untaxed bricks, and grow hops, tobacco, or anything else he liked in his garden.—Captain D. PELHAM made some observation, after which the debate was adjourned to Thursday.

The debate was resumed on Thursday the 21st. Mr. STAFFORD supported the motion, and, among other observations, calculated that Ireland would be relieved by the transfer of burdens on land, amounting to 490,000*l.*, to the Consolidated Fund.—Sir James GRA-

HAM characterised the motion as a clever party manœuvre. Taken by themselves, the propositions would confer an almost imperceptible benefit on the landed interest. He had always enforced upon the agricultural body, to whom he himself belonged, the imprudence of legislating for themselves as a class distinct from the rest of the community. Eleven articles, all of them to be classed among the necessaries of the operative and manufacturing population, paid in taxes thirty-one millions annually. Was it equitable to add to this burden by transferring some of the load now resting upon realised property? The burdens on land were diminishing. A report drawn up in 1833 showed a condition of the landed interest under the sliding scale far more deplorable even than at present. What personal good management could effect, he exemplified by his own experience, the poor-rate, county-rate, and highway-rate in his neighbourhood having been reduced from 30 to 40 per cent. since he came into his property in 1822. The increased imports of guano and application for inclosure bills showed that agricultural enterprise was still lively. Land enjoyed many exemptions from taxation. Nothing was paid by it on descents, while personal properties had paid sixty millions in legacy duties since 1797. Stamps, servants, vehicles, and horses were also exempt from duty when they appertained to land and agriculture. The reliefs to which the landed interest was fairly entitled were the alleviation of burdens that checked improvement. Among these were the duties on brick and timber. If the income-tax were re-enacted after its expiration next year, some claim might also be urged for a revision of Schedule B, which fixed the farmer's profits at half his rent; and even of Schedule A, where no allowance was made for the landlord's expenses and repairs. Speaking of the general condition of the English labourer, he declared that in his own neighbourhood there had been no reduction of wages, while all articles of consumption had fallen, and the husbandman was able to enjoy more comforts than he had ever known before.—Mr. GLADSTONE expressed his intention to vote for the motion; but said he should not do so if he thought that it involved a reversion of the Free-trade policy. He agreed that local management is a stimulus to economy; but he would go into committee to consider the charges—such as establishment charges and the like—which do not need that check, and might therefore be transferred to the Consolidated Fund. As a matter of justice, it is clear that property should be made liable for the maintenance of the poor. He supported the motion mainly because he thought it would have a tendency to lessen the agitation for the restoration of protection, by drawing off the moderate; and the struggling class which now makes its claim upon the house should be met with aid and encouragement.—Sir R. PEEL admitted the existence of agricultural distress, for which he felt sincerely; but described it as exceptional, and owing to special causes: similar distress existing in protected countries. He characterised Mr. Disraeli's proposition as a plan tending to shake confidence in public credit; and said that he should consider its adoption a most precipitate and unwise act. And how could we remove the tax upon bricks, timber, and other articles on which relief might properly be given, if we took away from the exchequer the surplus which might justify such relief? And yet real property, by the repeal of the 500,000*l.* or 600,000*l.* of brick duty, would be gaining more real benefit than if the proposal of Mr. Disraeli were acceded to. Sir R. Peel further objected to the proposal as a reversal of the financial policy of the country; and said that its adoption would render it an impossibility to repeal any tax, however objectionable. It would be an ill return to the mass of the people for their patience and loyalty to begin to reverse a policy which had made them so thankful. He (Sir Robert) had been charged with acting treacherously towards a certain interest. What reason (he asked, amid loud cheers), personal or political, *could* he have for such a course? He alluded to an attack made upon him by Lord H. Bentinck, who had accused him of having a pecuniary interest in supporting the funds as against land. Lord H. Bentinck, in describing his (Sir Robert's) fortune, should, if he wished to speak truth, have exactly reversed the account he gave of it. He then defended himself for his course upon the Corn-law;—a course which, he said, he believed to have been his duty to God and to his country, and of the wisdom of which he was more confirmed than ever. Protection never could be revived; and the landed aristocracy would one day see that the abrogation of protection had established their just influence more firmly than ever.—Lord John RUSSELL supported and enforced the arguments of Sir James Graham and Sir R. Peel, and expressed some regret that Sir Robert had thought it worth his while to allude to the personal attacks made on him; feeling convinced that in the present as well as future time, full justice would be done to Sir Robert's motives (a testimony loudly cheered by the house).—Lord Henry BENTINCK attempted to renew his previous attack, but was prevented from going on, by indignant exclamations from all parts of the house.—On the division, Mr. D'Israeli's motion was negatived by 273 to 252.

On Monday the 25th, on the order of the day for going into committee on the *Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill*, Mr. Disraeli urged its postponement till after the termination of the Irish assizes. This was opposed by ministers, and a pertinacious party struggle took place. After two divisions the house went into committee; but the committee was prevented from proceeding by a series of obstructive motions and divisions on them, to which ministers were forced to give way.

On Tuesday the 26th, Mr. W. J. Fox moved for leave to bring in a bill for the *Promotion of Secular Education*. In a speech of great ability, he explained the nature of his measure. It provided that there should be a government examination into the educational deficiency of each district in England, and that the inhabitants should be invited to supply that deficiency, by providing the means of adding to the numbers in existing schools, and by instituting free schools in which no religious system should be taught, except by desire of the parents. Where a locality refused the invitation, government should interfere, and compel it to do its duty. One of the advantages of this plan would be, that the sturdy independence of the lower class, which revolted against "charities," and objected to theological dogmas, would be won over to education. He said that, according to a Lancashire estimate, a rate of $4\frac{3}{4}d.$ in the pound would provide schools all over England, against which should be set the expected diminution in criminal expenditure. After dwelling upon the necessity of raising the standard of the teacher, he hoped that his bill might be laid on the table of the house, and be considered by the country, where thousands upon thousands of children were growing up in savageness and crime.—Lord J. RUSSELL recognised the importance of the subject, and the reality of the deficiency alluded to by Mr. Fox. He hoped the house would allow the bill to be introduced; but whether the plan it included would meet all the vast difficulties of the question, he would not at the present moment pronounce a definite judgment. The statement as to the total failure of the existing societies to extend the means of instruction, he however believed to have been somewhat overcharged. The noble lord trusted that something might result from the motion, and acknowledged the admirable spirit in which the subject had been approached by the hon. member for Oldham.—After observations from Mr. Hume, Mr. Plumptre, Mr. B. Osborne, and others, leave was given to introduce the bill.

Mr. FITZROY, for leave to bring in a bill *Extending to 50l. the Jurisdiction of County Courts*. The ATTORNEY GENERAL said he would not oppose the introduction of the bill, though he had serious objections to extending the powers of these courts. Leave was given, and the bill brought in.

On Wednesday, the 27th, Mr. Stuart WORTLEY moved the second reading of the *Marriages Bill*, explaining that its main features were similar to the bill of last year, except that he had withdrawn the words which legalised marriage with a deceased wife's niece, and had also left it to the discretion of the clergy to solemnise the marriages with the deceased wife's sister or not, according to their conscience. Mr. THESIGER moved that

the bill be read that day six months. The debate, in which the general question of marriage with a deceased wife's sister was again opened up, was adjourned.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—January 31. Opening of parliament.—Her Majesty's speech.—Address and amendment; address carried by 152 to 103.—Bill to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Bankruptcy; and Bill for the Regulation of Select Vestries, read a first time.

February 5th.—Clergy Proceedings Bill read a first time.

11th.—Ecclesiastical Commission Bill read a second time.

12th.—Bill to shorten the Language of Acts of Parliament, brought in by Lord Brougham and read a first time.

18th.—Dolly's Brae; Lord Stanley's charges against the government, and Lord Clarendon's defence.

21st.—Irish Poor Law, Lord Desart's resolutions withdrawn.

22nd.—Royal assent given to County Cess (Ireland) Bill.

25th.—Ecclesiastical Commission Bill considered in committee.

House of Commons.—January 31. Address and amendment moved; debate adjourned.

February 1.—Division on the Address; carried by 311 to 192.—New writs ordered for Windsor and Colchester.

5th.—Mr. Horsman's motion respecting Ecclesiastical Commission debated and withdrawn.

6th.—Irish Law Reform; four Bills, viz., the Common Law Process, Court of Chancery, Registration of Deeds, and Jndgments Bills, brought in by Sir J. Romilly.—Ceylon Inquiry; motion made by Mr. Hawes for re-appointment of committee; vote of censure proposed by Mr. Disraeli, and negatived by 140 to 68; amendment by Mr. Hume negatived by 109 to 100. House adjourned without putting the original question.

7th.—Mr. P. Scrope's motion for leave to bring in a Small Tenement Rating Bill negatived.—Lord D. Stuart's motion for papers on the affairs of Hungary debated and withdrawn.—Mr. Macgregor's motion to incorporate a suburban district of London into a borough, vice Sudbury disfranchised, withdrawn.—Mr. S. Wortley's Marriages Bill read a first time.—Mr. Anstey's motion for leave to bring in a Bill to repeal Penal Acts against Roman Catholics negatived.

11th.—Ceylon Committee re-appointed.—Pirates Head-money Repeal Bill read a second time.—Australian Colonies Bill read a first time.—Bills brought in for Improving the Mercantile Marine, Regulating the Merchant Seamen's Fund, and Regulating the Admeasurement of Merchant Shipping.—Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill, and Electors (Ireland) Bill, ordered to be brought in.

12th.—New River Company's Water Bill, second reading postponed.—Process and Practice (Ireland) Bill read a second time.

13th.—Bill to amend the Laws relative to Highways read a first time.

14th.—Public Libraries, leave given Mr. Ewart to bring in a Bill.—Transportation of Felons, Mr. Adderley's motion for leave to bring in a Bill negatived.—Mr. Ewart's Committee on Public Libraries re-appointed.—Leave given Mr. Pusey to bring in a Landlord and Tenant Bill.

15th.—Distressed Unions in Ireland, Lord John Russell's resolution for further aid.—Court of Chancery (Ireland) Bill read a second time.—Registrar's Office Bankruptcy Bill, reference to a Select Committee carried against Ministers.—Merchant Shipping, Mercantile Shipping, and Merchant Seamen's Fund Bills, read a first time.—Army Estimates presented.

18th.—Australian Colonies Bill read a second time.—Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Bill read a first time.—Commons Enclosure Bill read a first time.

19th.—Party Processions (Ireland) Bill considered, as amended.

20th.—Address for a Royal Commission to Ceylon agreed to.—Bankrupt and Insolvent Members Bill thrown out on second reading.—Benefices in Plurality Bill, Larceny Summary Jurisdiction Bill, and Tenants at Rackrent Relief Bill, read a second time.

21st.—Local Burdens on Land; Mr. D'Israeli's motion negatived by 273 to 252.

22nd.—Party Processions Bill read a third time and passed.—Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill, and Elections (Ireland) Bill, read a second time.

25th.—Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill in Committee. Proceedings obstructed by repeated motions that chairman report progress.

26th.—Leave given Mr. W. J. Fox to bring in a Secular Education Bill.—Mr. Hume's motion for a drawback on brick and timber duties withdrawn by consent.

27th.—Marriages Bill; motion for second reading; debate adjourned.

At a meeting of the *Rutland Protectionists* on the 28th of January, very violent language was used by some of the farmers. A Mr. Cheetham held forth in the following strain:—"The phantoms of ruined farmers must haunt the sleeping pillow of Sir Robert Peel. Knowing how much he was execrated, he really should think he must move about in fear and dread. Even if Sir Robert Peel should ever have a majority again, he dared not take office. He knew that if he was in Sir Robert Peel's position, he should be afraid of the poniard and the dagger; and so he had a right to. (Here he was interrupted by loud cries of 'No—no!') He should be sorry to say what he did not feel, but he thought he was justified in saying what he had, seeing what a narrow escape Peel once had, when he was not so much execrated as he is now. He believed that Cobden and Peel were travelling the same road. Peel, he was informed, had a strong grudge against the aristocracy, because one of them in the House of Lords once called him a weaver's son. Sir Robert Peel's son need not be afraid of being called a weaver's son or a weaver's grandson, but he would be called 'the traitor's son.'" Mr. Stafford, M.P., made the best apology he could for this language: he was sure Mr. Cheetham meant no harm, but his words might be misinterpreted. The usual Protectionist resolutions were passed.

The County meeting at Brecon ended in a signal defeat of the Protectionists. Called by themselves, well attended, with Colonel Pearce, the High Sheriff, a man of their own party but of impartial mind, for chairman, it ended by carrying a Free-trade amendment by a decided majority.

The County meeting at Bedford began in favour of the Protectionists, but ended in a virtual defeat. The townsmen of Bedford at the last moment crowded into the place of meeting, outnumbered the Protectionists, and threatened to carry Anti-Protectionist resolutions; to prevent which, the chairman dissolved the meeting prematurely.

The *Manchester Financial and Parliamentary Reform Association* held a meeting in the Free-trade hall on the 29th ult., for the purpose of hearing addresses from Messrs. Cobden and Bright previously to their departure for their Parliamentary duties. Upwards of 8000 persons were present, including Messrs. Henry, M.P., Brown, M.P., Kershaw, M.P., Sir E. Armitage, Mr. H. Ashworth, and many other prominent friends of the movement. Mr. G. Wilson was in the chair, and stated the object of the attendance of the members of the association to be for the purpose of seeking the co-operation of the meeting in favour of a scheme for enfranchising the people, to a certain extent, through freehold qualifications. Mr. Cobden addressed the meeting, exposing with great force the Protectionist fallacies at present so industriously propagated throughout the provinces, and showing the important purposes which might be accomplished by means of the freehold land movement. Mr. Bright followed, strongly and ably advocating the same course. Their speeches made a powerful impression on the immense assemblage.

Several great meetings have been held in the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire and Lancashire, with the view of securing the integrity of the Ten Hours' Act, and subverting the mode of working by shifts and relays. In particular, a meeting of delegates was held at Bradford on the 23d inst.; another at Oldham on the 25th; and a meeting of power-loom overlookers at Manchester on the 26th; at all of which petitions to Parliament were adopted.

There have been *Serious Riots* at Limerick; large mobs having for several days marched through the streets demanding bread. Several bread-shops have been broken into and plundered, and in one shop the till was rifled of money. A large force of military and police was called out and captured a number of the rioters. Several of them were brought before the magistrates, and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. The great majority of them refused to go into the workhouse, and in parading the streets they frequently shouted "Bread or Blood."

Archbishop Slattery has just issued a letter, addressed to the Catholic clergy and people of Cashel and Emly, *denouncing the Queen's Colleges*, on account of their grievous and intrinsic dangers, and in conformity with the judgment pronounced upon them by the Holy See, by which it is declared to be unlawful for Roman Catholics to encourage or frequent these institutions.

Lord John Manners was returned for Colchester on the 6th, in opposition to Mr. Wingrove Cook.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

EDMUND FRANCIS HUNT, a plasterer, of Bath, *Drowned himself and an Infant Child* on the 2nd. Hunt was industrious and well-conducted, but his wife wasteful, drunken, and dishonest: she had several times been imprisoned for theft. This preyed on the husband's mind: in autumn last, when she was in gaol, where she was delivered of a child, he threatened that if she ever again committed a robbery, he would destroy himself. On the 2nd she was taken into custody for shoplifting, and a neighbour informed Hunt of this at night. Hunt, who had been drinking a little, became excited, and hastened home. At the inquest, his son deposed: "As soon as father came home, he asked, 'Where's mother?' and I told him I did not know. My little sister, who was up stairs in bed, then called out 'Father!' My father told me to go up stairs and fetch her. I gave him my sister, and asked him to come up to bed. He told me to go up to bed, and said he should not see my face any more. When in bed I heard my father go out and shut the back-door. I then heard him say something to my sister, but I could not understand what it was. My sister was two-and-a-half years old. She was my only sister, and my father was particularly fond of her. He liked her better than all the rest of us, and often had her brought down stairs to him when he came home." The river Avon flowed at the back of the house, and thither he proceeded with his child. Their bodies have since been found in the stream—the child's near Bristol. The verdict of the coroner's jury was "Temporary Insanity."

Two children were *Drowned* at Exeter on the night of Saturday, the 2nd. Elizabeth Bradford, the wife of a joiner, was seen walking towards the ship-basin, with her three children; some time after, a man heard a splashing in the water, and he pulled a little boy out of the basin, still alive; the mother said he must have fallen in. But it was reported that the two little girls of the woman were missing; next morning the police dragged the basin, and the bodies of the children were found. Elizabeth Bradford was arrested, in a wild and frantic state. The coroner's jury have returned an open verdict, to the effect that the children were "found downed," but how they came into the water there was no evidence to show.

At the Surrey Sessions, on the 4th, two women, one aged twenty, and the other thirteen, were tried for *Stealing a Sheep* at Addington, near Croydon. Their apprehension was mentioned in our last Number. The evidence clearly made out that they had taken the sheep from a number of others in a fold, cut and wrenched its head off, skinned the body, and torn it to pieces; and were stopped when carrying the meat away at night. They were both convicted. The woman, a bad character, was sentenced to ten years' transportation; the girl, to a year's imprisonment.

George Wild, a policeman of the M Division, was tried on the 5th for *Stealing Rabbit-Skins*. Much interest was excited on account of the antecedents of the accused: he had been in the police ten years, had held a high character, and was very active in detecting crime; through his means thirty persons have been transported, and more than a hundred summarily convicted for robbery. Mrs. Sinnetts, a furrier, occupied some cellars in Southwark as warehouses for skins; it was suspected that the place was robbed; application was made to Wild, and he undertook to investigate the matter. To attempt to catch the thieves, he and one of Mrs. Sinnett's sons watched at night; and eventually Wild was left in the place by himself. An air-hole communicated from one of the cellars with the Crossbones burial-ground. The prisoner appears to have thrust a number of skins through this hole; then he got admission through a house into the ground, and took away a bag-full of skins; but as the tenant of the house suspected and questioned him, he took the bag and part of the skins to Mrs. Sinnett's son, pretending that a robber had thrust them into the grave-yard, and that he had noticed the articles through the railings. A number of skins were found in a yard near Wild's lodging, and there was no doubt he threw them there. The verdict was "Guilty," with a recommendation to mercy. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

Thomas Cox, a boy of nine years old, was killed on the 6th, by *Falling into an old Coal-pit*. He left home on the morning with his father to work in a coal-pit, near Darlaston, in Staffordshire. In passing through a field, near Potter's Bridge, his hat blew off. The morning was dark and windy, and whilst in search of it he fell into an old pit exposed without any fence round or over it. He was brought up, his head fractured, both his legs broken, dreadfully crushed, and quite dead. A public road passes within twenty yards of the pit, and there is no fence against either the road or the pit, which is about thirty-five yards deep. There are two or three other pits near, in an equally dangerous state. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death;" expressing an opinion that "there had been great want of proper attention and care on the part of the occupier of the pit in question, in not having seen that it was properly protected."

Mr. W. H. Apperley, a land-agent, was *Attacked by Highwaymen* on the 7th. Whilst returning in the evening from Abergavenny towards Hereford in his gig alone, he was stopped by three men in a lonely part of the road. Perceiving that resistance was useless, and having a sum of money upon his person, he leaped from the gig over the fence down into a strip of land adjoining the river, the field being here many feet below the road; almost before he regained his feet, he heard the horse and gig roll over the fence also. He ran for assistance, and found three men at home in a cottage not three hundred yards distant, who immediately returned with him; they found the horse and gig (the latter doubtless upset in its passage over the fence) near the river. The highwaymen had followed the gig down the place, and ransacked the contents; but the only booty they obtained was a letter-case, and about five or six French coins. Not the least damage was sustained by either horse, gig, or harness.

At the Central Criminal Court, on the 8th, Margaret Higgins and Elizabeth Smith were indicted on a charge of robbing Mr. Frederick Hardy Jewett, a solicitor, after having *Stupified him with Chloroform*. Between nine and ten o'clock on the evening of Jan. 10th, whilst proceeding slowly along the Whitechapel Road, he felt somebody, he believed a woman, touch his left side, and a rag or handkerchief pressed over the lower part of the face. He became insensible until the following morning, when he slowly revived, and found himself lying on a very dirty bed in a wretched apartment, and in a complete state of nudity, with the exception of an old piece of rag which had been carelessly thrown over him. Some of his clothes were in the room; other articles had been stolen, with his watch, jewellery, and money. His trowsers were muddy, as if he had been dragged through the streets. The door of the room was fastened by a padlock outside; he found the key on the floor; he pushed it under the door to a potman who happened to be in the house, and was thus liberated. He found that he had been conveyed to a low lodging-house in Thrall Street, Spitalfields. Policemen and other witnesses gave evidence. The women rented the room; when arrested, they accused each other. Higgins had been heard to say that she had "done" the robbery. She told a woman that a man named Gallagher, with whom she cohabited, had undergone an operation at the London Hospital, where they had given him some stuff to send him to sleep, and that he had contrived to bring some of it away with him. The jury returned a verdict of "Guilty," and the prisoners were sentenced to be transported for fifteen years. It is doubtful whether the unfortunate gentleman will ever recover from the effects of the treatment he suffered.

At the Surrey Sessions, on the 9th, Charlotte Wilson was indicted for *a Similar Offence*. Mr. Barnet Lea, whilst passing St. George's Church, in the Borough, on the evening of the 1st of January, was accosted by the prisoner. On telling her to go about her business, she suddenly passed a handkerchief across his face, and he became very unwell. Not suspecting any narcotic in the handkerchief, he ran into a public-house close by, and called for a glass of brandy; but before he could drink

it he became insensible, and knew nothing of what took place afterwards, until he found himself under the care of a surgeon. A policeman had seen the act, and watched the prisoner enter the public-house; she presently darted out with a hat and scarf, and escaped in the intricacies of the vicinity, but was subsequently captured. The jury recommended the severest sentence the law empowered. Sentence, ten years' transportation.

Judgment was given on a claim for *Seamen's Wages*, a case of considerable importance to the mercantile community, at the Mansion House, on the 9th. Two days previously, several seamen of the vessel Queen had summoned the owners for wages. The Queen, on her homeward voyage from Callao in South America, had touched at San Francisco, where the master of the vessel had deserted for the Californian gold washings, with a portion of the crew. The mate assumed the command, and, to retain the others, promised them extra wages; they stayed by him, and he was able to navigate his vessel home. But the owners disclaimed the agreement for extra wages: if the men had all left the ship at California, they could have been punished as deserters if they had ever been caught afterwards in England; it was their duty to bring home the ship for the wages originally agreed upon. As to the master's promising more money, what could he do? he was obliged to adopt any means to keep some of his crew to their duty. After taking time to consider, the magistrate made the following award: "Taking into consideration the fact that after the desertion of the first captain and part of the crew, the new captain and sundry seamen appeared before the Vice-Consul at Callao, who recorded that by mutual agreement the wages should be twenty dollars per month, it is my decision that the complainants are entitled to such increased wages upon a new hiring, and I accordingly award the same to them with costs."

Mr. Leggett, a leather-merchant, was charged at the Mansion House before Aldermen Carden and Humphreys, with committing an *Assault upon a young Lady*, and following it up by using grossly indecent language to her. The defendant's plea was intoxication; he and a friend had dined together, and drank four bottles of wine at a tavern. He had no notion, he said, of insulting the lady. Alderman Carden said: You were not only able to run after and persecute her, but to attempt to escape when you found that persons were ready and determined to protect her, and you greatly aggravated your offence by repeating language unfit for any ears in the presence of one to whom, as a man, you were bound to offer succour and assistance instead of insult. We are perfectly aware that a sum of money as a penalty upon you would be considered of no importance. You manifested by your smiles and indifference, while the young lady was so modestly giving her evidence, that you felt very little for her, or for your offence against society, or apprehension as to the result of this investigation. But it happens as magistrates we have the power of inflicting a very disagreeable substitute for a pecuniary penalty, and we think that this is a most excellent opportunity of testing the efficacy of that power. Our sentence upon you, therefore, is, that for your violent and indecent conduct you be imprisoned seven days in the House of Correction. The defendant was shocked at this judgment, and assured the Bench that he deeply regretted his conduct, and was willing to pay any penalty they might think proper to inflict. He repeated that he was most willing to be allowed to apologise to the lady and all other persons whom he might have offended. Alderman Carden said, the Bench did not consider it necessary to consult the lady at all upon the occasion, and certainly could not suppose that she would condescend to listen to the language of apology from one who had used language for which there could be no apology. The defendant was then taken off to the House of Correction. There were several gentlemen present who were ready to testify as to the high respectability of Mr. Leggett, but the aldermen said the case was disposed of.

John Baguley, aged 70, who died at Chilwell, near Nottingham, on the 16th, *Confessed on his death-bed* that 23 years ago he murdered a hawker, and robbed him of shawls, blankets, &c., and disposed of the body. At the period of his sudden disappearance, the murdered man professed to be courting one of Baguley's daughters, and, as he was known to be in possession of a considerable sum of money he was looked upon as being a rather desirable suitor, especially as the Baguleys were very poor. The hawker had not been missing more than twelve months before their circumstances began to improve, and from the poverty-stricken labourer Baguley became suddenly a comfortable cottager, with a number of pigs in his sty. Baguley's first wife, whenever she quarrelled with her husband, was in the habit of putting a stop to the violence of his temper by saying, "Be quiet, John; you know I have your coat of arms upstairs," alluding to some bloody clothes that were supposed to be kept in a lodging-room. This first Mrs. Baguley died five or six years ago, and said, a short time previously, that she had something on her mind which she should like to reveal; but this coming to her husband's knowledge, he never afterwards would allow a stranger to go to her room. The present Mrs. Baguley was married to him three years, and since which time she says his conduct has been very strange. In his sleep frequently he would jump up in a state of great excitement and exclaim that some one was about to seize him. The day before he died he said to her, "The pick that I did it with is in the dyke;" and other revelations followed. It is singular that the cottage in which the murder was committed has never since been occupied for any length of time, and in it periodically strange nocturnal noises are said to be heard. "The Chilwell ghost," and tales respecting "the haunted house at Chilwell," have during the last twenty years dismayed many thousands of persons residing within a circle of 150 miles of the locality.

An *Action of Libel*, which occupied several days, was concluded on the 16th in the Court of Exchequer, between Mr. Feargus O'Connor, M.P., and Mr. Bradshaw, proprietor of the Nottingham Journal. The libel was an advertisement in the Nottingham Journal, thus worded—"The subscribers to the 'National Land Company' and the admirers of Feargus O'Connor, Esq., M.P. for Nottingham, who has wheedled the people of England out of 100,000*l.*, with which he has bought estates and conveyed them to his own use and benefit, and all who are desirous to witness the final overthrow of this great political impostor, should order the Nottingham Journal, in which his excessive honesty, in connexion with the Land Plan, has been, and will continue to be, fearlessly exposed." The defendant justified his libel by calling witnesses, who exposed the illegality and commercial failure of the National Land Company. The plaintiff answered with witnesses from the management of the company, who laid bare its affairs, with the object of showing that at the worst Mr. O'Connor had been an honest though erring philanthropist. Chief Baron Pollock, in summing up, recounted a multitude of illegalities in the scheme, which required explanation,—such as a false registration of Mr. Roberts instead of Mr. O'Connor as treasurer, because it would "not look so well" for Mr. O'Connor to be both director and treasurer; the irresponsible purchase of 60,000*l.* worth of land before the company had been registered; the receiving of 100,000*l.* of deposits at a time when the company had no legal right to call for more than 620*l.*; the non-registration of the banking division of the scheme; the publication of Mr. James Knight's name as director thereof after he had significantly declined to be connected with it. The effect of these illegalities was to shut out the shareholders from legal remedy—they could call for no restitution against Mr. O'Connor in any court of law or equity; his heir might hold the land, and his personal representatives the money, freed of all accountability; or he himself might squander it, or lose it by speculation. The jury found for the defendant, with the expression of their unanimous opinion that the plaintiff's character stood unimpeached as regarded his personal honesty

An action was brought in the County Court of Cornwall, on the 19th, on behalf of a boy named Robins, against William Brabyn, a schoolmaster of Withiel, arising out of a *Savage Punishment*. The master beat the boy on the head with a stick; the brain was affected, and blindness and deafness resulted. The jury gave a verdict of 20*l.* damages.

At a Protection Meeting at Dorchester, on the 20th, a *Violent Affray* took place between the farmers and the freetraders; and a young man, named Allen, was killed by a struck down blow by one of the farmers. He died in the County Hospital a few days afterwards. It has not been discovered who inflicted the blow.

A case of *Extraordinary Credulity* was disclosed at the Islington County Court on the 23rd, when a poor Irish girl, named Sullivan, sought to recover the sum of 4*l.* 15*s.* from a man named Taylor. She stated that she was in respectable service at Hoxton, and met the defendant nine weeks back, when he suddenly pretended to admire her, telling her she resembled a sister who had died, and asked her to favour him with her company for a walk, as he was a single man and anxious to get married. She believed his representations, and he continued paying his addresses to her until a fortnight ago, when he induced her to obtain leave of absence from her mistress for a day and a night, for the purpose of taking her to Shoreditch church to be married. Her mistress granted her request, and she met the defendant, who took her to the church, which was closed, when, on his entreaty, she accompanied him to a beer-shop in Whitecross-street, where several men and women, who, he said, were his relatives, induced her to jump over a broom, and go through other mock ceremonies of marriage, under an impression that it was legal; and she parted with the amount now claimed, fully believing that he was her lawful husband. After enjoying herself in his company and that of his friends, during the day at the beer-shop, she accompanied him to his lodgings for the night, and went to her service in the morning, when she mentioned to her mistress that she had practised a deception on her in obtaining permission of absence, and then detailed the above extraordinary circumstances, which reaching her master's ears, he adopted the present proceedings, and convinced her of the cruel trick of which she had become the victim. The Judge expressed his surprise that the girl's master had not handed over the defendant to be dealt with criminally, which he most richly deserved; before giving judgment, an officer of the court was sent to her master, and ascertained the truth of her statement. The Judge ordered the defendant to pay the money and costs in a week. The fellow was then hissed from the Court.

At Marylebone Police Office, on the 27th, Elizabeth Higgins, wife of a wheelwright, was committed to Newgate for trial, charged with *Attempting to Murder her Three Children*, respectively of the ages of seven years, five years, and seven months. Anne West, in passing along the Bloomfield Road on the 18th, saw the accused on the towing-path of the Regent's Canal; she had the three children with her; she lowered the baby into the water, put another child in, and then walked in herself with the third child. West saw this through a paling; she raised an alarm, and two men came up. One of these, John Rollins, a painter, plunged into the canal, and successively rescued all four. The mother was taken to the Paddington workhouse. To the inquiries of a police inspector there, she alleged her husband's cruelty and ill-usage as the cause of the act. She said: "He earns 27*s.* a week, and out of that he gives me the odd 7*s.* to keep house and find everything: the 20*s.* he spends entirely upon himself. He comes home drunk, pulls me out of bed, and beats me, saying that he will be the death of me, and that it shall not be a sudden but a lingering death. I have also been afraid that he would poison me, and I thought that I and my children might as well have died at once as not." The magistrate warmly applauded the conduct of Rollins and Mrs. West for their exertions in this distressing case.

Two more *Savings-Bank Defalcations* have been discovered, at St. Helen's, near Liverpool, and at Scarborough. The St. Helen's Bank was established about the year 1818; the management was vested in six trustees and fifty managers, who agreed to attend in rotation and affix their initials to the depositors' pass-books. Mr. John Johnson was appointed actuary, with a commission amounting to about 50*l.* a year; and, about 1833, he introduced his brother William as his deputy, calling him the sub-actuary. Mr. John Johnson was then, and is still, the managing partner in an extensive colliery firm. Recent events in connexion with savings-banks made the trustees and managers vigilant; and as the accounts tendered them showed that the amount of deposits had decreased of late years, though the neighbourhood was increasing in prosperousness, they resolved to examine the pass-books. On learning this resolve, Mr. Johnson admitted that he had also received a government notice ordering the same step. This precipitated a disclosure. William Johnson informed the trustees that money had been misappropriated by his brother, and that he had falsified accounts by his brother's direction; but he declared that this had been done during the past year only, and to the amount of but 1500*l.* As the examination of the books proceeded, it was found that these declarations were untrue. The malversations have amounted to about 10,000*l.*, and have been carried on for about seventeen years. The accounts tampered with were principally those of friendly societies. A person who was a depositor before the alteration of the law restricted the amount of deposits, had paid in 800*l.*: Johnson appropriated the whole. The original trustees and managers having mostly died, it was only within the last few years that their places were supplied; the attendance to check the books became a mere irregular form; unlimited confidence was placed in the popular Mr. Johnson; and "at last the bank degenerated into an institution managed by Mr. Johnson for his own purposes." Hence the impunity for his frauds. Mr. John Johnson lived in a most expensive style, was very hospitable, and spent much money upon his conservatories. Fortunately, both the brothers have property; and they have made it over to the trustees of the bank: it is expected that it will be sufficient to meet the deficiency. Mr. John Johnson has been arrested on a charge of embezzlement, his brother for conspiracy and aiding. The private book, in which the frauds were noted, has been found, and is likely to show the true nature of the bank transactions.—Mr. Smurwaite, a wine-merchant, has been arrested for embezzling the funds of the Scarborough Bank, of which he was the actuary and secretary. He carried on a good business in the town. The total amount of his frauds is not yet ascertained. At present it is nearly 4000*l.* Mr. Smurwaite has been gazetted as a bankrupt.

Henry Jackson, a money-taker in the service of the Citizen Steamboat company, has committed *Suicide*. Serious defalcations having occurred in the receipts of the company, a number of the people employed were suspected. Among them was Jackson, who was ordered, on the 11th of January, to attend the solicitor to the company. He left the place, saying he would presently return, but was never seen alive again. On the 20th inst. his body was found floating in the Thames, at Rotherhithe. A coroner's jury gave this verdict: "That the deceased had destroyed himself while in a state of temporary insanity, arising from fear of a criminal prosecution."

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

JAMES WILSON, an engine-driver, and John Tinkler, fireman, were *Killed* on the 2nd near the Darlington station of the York, Newcastle, and Berwick Railway, by the bursting of a locomotive engine boiler. At the inquest, Mr. George Barker of Roundhill, stated, that whilst attending to his homestead, he was alarmed by a loud explosion, proceeding from a train on the railway, which runs close by his farm. Perceiving a great body of fire and steam proceed from the train, he ran to render assistance, and on gaining the line, found the engine had burst. It was off the line, and the tender seemed to have been blown on to the opposite rails. Between the two lines lay a man apparently dead, and on looking round he found another in a ditch. Mr. Bell, the superintendent of the locomotive department, stated he was at the Darlington station when the train took its departure. It was a luggage train, consisting of 26 waggons, five loaded with timber, and the rest with coals. It was drawn by an old locomotive, one that had been damaged by a collision, but the boiler and its machinery were perfect in every respect, capable

of running with safety. It had been running some miles that day. The explosion was attributed to the boiler being kept short of water.

The village of Ashwell in Herts was ravaged by a terrible *Fire* on the 2nd, supposed to have been wilfully caused. Six farm premises, the produce of 1400 acres, 26 cottages, 3 malt-houses, and a handsome Independent chapel, were utterly destroyed. Thirty-two families have been rendered houseless, and 60 or 70 people thrown out of work. The damage amounts to from 25,000*l.* to 30,000*l.*

A tremendous *Storm of Wind* swept over all parts of the kingdom on the night of the 5th and 6th. Its equal in violence has not been experienced for years, and a vast destruction of property has taken place. The remarkable fall of the barometer in the afternoon, indicated a change in the weather for the worse, and after dusk the wind rose rapidly from the W. and N.W., with occasionally heavy falls of rain. By one o'clock the gale had reached its climax, at times resembling thunder. It so continued till six o'clock, when the blast, if anything, increased, as the wind-gauge at Lloyd's showed. The pressure throughout the night up to the time mentioned was 9lbs, 10lbs, and 11lbs on the square foot; but a few minutes after six o'clock it reached 17lbs., the highest pressure known since the apparatus machine has been erected, now three years.

Large branches were torn from the trees in and round the metropolis, numerous stacks of chimneys blown down, and lead stripped from the house-tops. At Bethnal Green the roof of a chapel was torn up and shattered to pieces. Much damage was done to the shipping in the river, accompanied with loss of life. At Manchester many of the houses were unroofed. Three heavily-laden coal-waggons on the West Yorkshire Railway were set in motion down an incline, and dashed through the Bolton station towards Manchester, at the speed of an express, overtaking a passenger-train at Clifton; they ran into it with extraordinary violence, shivering the three last carriages almost to atoms. Many of the passengers were severely injured. At Preston the arches of a new railway viaduct were blown down. At Bristol and Liverpool, numerous vessels were driven on shore.

The shipping on the coasts suffered enormously. In the west, a ship was shattered to pieces on the shore at Mawgen Porth, and all hands perished; at Ilfracombe, a Fowey vessel was wrecked, with the loss of the whole crew. In Wales, both at sea and on land, the damage was extensive. A ship was wrecked in attempting to enter Cardigan harbour, and eleven out of a crew of thirteen perished. The gale caused the destruction of a well-known windmill at Castledown in the Isle of Man: the sails were whirled round with such rapidity that the mill was set on fire, and was speedily burnt down. On the east coast, a great deal of shipping was damaged or destroyed. A brig was seen to go down near the Dudgeon Light; nothing heard of the crew. A West Indiaman seems to have been lost in Margate Roads. The Sarah, from Jamaica, was on the way to London, towed by a steamer, when the hawser broke, and the ship went adrift during the night. A quantity of West India produce and pieces of wreck have been cast ashore; nothing heard of the crew.

Near Ayr, the Jubilee of Sunderland was lost on the rocks; the mate and four seamen drowned. The Margaret, from New Orleans, went ashore near Dunure; the crew got to land; but a young man determined to return and save his chest: he got back to the ship, much exhausted, and caught hold of a rope; he hung by this for twenty minutes, and then, quite worn out, dropped into the waves and was drowned. A coal-ship ran ashore near Girvan; the men took to the boat; this afterwards filled and sank, and five men were lost. At Ardrossan, a steamer which plied to the Isle of Arran caught fire while lying in port; and the wind so fanned the flames that nothing could be done but scuttle the ship, which then burnt to the water's edge.

The storm raged in Ireland. At Limerick, the master of a ship was drowned, having been blown off a plank as he was going to the vessel. The Queen's College at Belfast was a good deal damaged; and a fatal accident occurred at the Union Workhouse: a chimney was blown down, and a large stone fell through the roof of a dormitory, killing three boys. At White Abbey, a child was killed by the fall of a chimney, while sleeping with its parents. In some districts the wretched hovels of the peasantry have been swept away by wholesale.

Early on the morning of the 7th, a *Destructive Fire* broke out in the vicinity of the York Road. It originated in the extensive premises of Mr. Myers, a builder, timber-merchant, and contractor: in the midst of a square of houses formed by the Westminster Road, the York Road, the Belvedere Road, and Guildford Street, which runs between the two last. From the situation of the buildings, the fire had gained great head before it was discovered, and then it spread rapidly. The result was the entire destruction of Mr. Myers's premises, of Messrs Nickels and Co.'s India-rubber webb manufactory in Guildford street, the damaging more or less of twelve houses in the York Road, of five in the Belvedere Road, and of other buildings. The body of fire was enormous, and the Brigade men could do nothing to save the manufacturing buildings. Mr. Myers was the contractor for ornamental stone-work for divers of Mr. Pugin's works, and the builder of the new Roman Catholic Cathedral, St. George's Fields. Upwards of fifty workmen have lost all their tools. Seventy young women are thrown out of employment by the destruction of Messrs. Nickels and Co.'s factory; this building was formerly part of Grissell and Peto's establishment. In one floor alone there were 500 machines, and in another 300, besides about a dozen power-looms and various hand-looms. The superintendent, who lived on the premises, escaped with his wife and four children in their night-clothes, every article of their furniture and clothing being destroyed. The whole of the property of Mr. Myers was consumed, including four valuable horses, which the firemen were unable to rescue. The total amount of property destroyed is estimated at 50,000*l.* Three-fourths of the amount is insured.

An *Alarming Fire* broke out on the 19th in the extensive flax-mills of the Messrs. Mulholland, at Belfast. Property to the amount of 10,000*l.* was stored in the wing of the building where the fire took place, and a very considerable portion of it is stated to have been consumed or damaged. The injury, however, was amply covered by insurance.

John Walker, a compositor, aged 44, *Committed Suicide* on the 9th. He had been discharged that day from the office of Messrs. Schultz and Co. in consequence of intemperate habits. He went to bed quite sober, and about nine o'clock on the following morning he was found in bed bleeding profusely from several wounds in his throat, which he had inflicted with a razor discovered lying by his side. The deceased was quite sensible, and said to Mr. Davis, with whom he lodged, that "he was ashamed to look him in the face, but he was compelled to do it, as he had been in great agony all the week." He was speedily placed in a cab, and on being removed to St. George's Hospital he was found to be quite dead. The house surgeon said, the wounds in the deceased's throat were not sufficient to cause death, and, from the appearance of the stomach and the intestines, the deceased had taken some corrosive poison which had caused death.

An *Explosion of Gunpowder*, attended with loss of life, occurred on the 14th, at Norris Castle, Isle of Wight, occupied by R. Bell, Esq. Mr. Hill, who is a member of several yacht clubs, kept his spare stores, including gunpowder, plate, &c., in some stabling adjoining the castle. The ammunition, from some cause unexplained, exploded, destroying the building and its contents, killing a man and boy, and wounding severely two others.

A collision, involving the *Loss of Two valuable Vessels*, occurred on the night of the 14th. Both were English traders—one the Floridian, a large barque, 300 tons burthen, the other a brigantine, the Helen, from Lisbon, bound to Leith,—both heavily laden. It was between 11 and 12 o'clock when the accident happened, the spot lat. 47.58, lon. 8, west. The Floridian was under close-reefed topsails, as was also the case with the Helen, and both, it is asserted, had a "good look-out," yet it appears neither of the vessels was seen until the very moment they came in contact. The Helen

foundered almost instantly after, her crew having barely time to clamber away from the wreck of the Floridian, which seemed in the same condition. Her hull was cut down to the water s edge, and it was not expected she could outlive the night. One of the Helen's crew perished in attempting to gain the Floridian. By incessant working at the pumps both crews managed to keep the vessel from sinking. Fortunately, on the morning of the 15th, her perilous situation was observed by the schooner Victoria, which bore down to her aid, and the master succeeded in taking off the wreck the crews of both vessels. The Floridian disappeared under water in the course of an hour after. Their loss and cargo is calculated at upwards of 17,000*l*.

At the Wakefield station of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, a man was *Killed* on the 20th, by being crushed between the buffers of two waggons, while employed in getting some pigs off by a goods train to Halifax, where he resided. The cause of the accident was the backing of the engine without a warning signal.

By the Trent, West Indian Steamer, which arrived on the 22nd, a number of persons were brought home, who had been *Shipwrecked* on the passage from New York to Liverpool. The following is the account given by one of them :—The liner ship L. Z. sailed from New York on the 12th of January, with 45 passengers. On the 14th, it was announced that from seven to fourteen feet of water was in the hold, entering from a leak. A pump was then attempted to be rigged by the carpenter, who was searching for his tools, until the water poured in so fast that his preparations were useless. The passengers were obliged to give up the pumps, being both choked and not in order. The vessel was given up for lost after midnight, when the crew got drunk, and began plundering and breaking trunks and chests, and looking for grog, and some selling and offering pieces of beef and pork for grog to the passengers. The captain, for the first time, crawled out of the cabin as if drunk, and ordered the cargo, or a part of it, to be thrown over. He remained a few minutes, when he went to his cabin again, and left the ship to the management of a drunken crew and officers. The passengers and second mate employed themselves in putting overboard some flour barrels and cotton bales. On the morning of the 15th of January, the American barque Marieta appeared in sight, and took the passengers on board, but they were not allowed to take with them a single article of property, except the clothes they had on. This barque was bound for Havana, but steered for Bermuda, to land them there. When a few miles from the island, she struck upon a rock and was wrecked, but the crew and passengers were saved by boats from the island. The passengers who had sailed from New York in the liner, obtained a passage for England in the Trent, and arrived at Southampton, all of them in a state of such destitution, that they received support from the guardians of the poor. One of the passengers had perished when leaving the wreck of the liner, and another had become mad from terror and suffering.

An *Explosive Fire* took place on the 23rd, on the premises of Messrs. Heathfield and Burgess, chemists and naphtha distillers, Prince's Square, Finsbury. It was said to have been caused by some apparatus having been incautiously overheated to such an extent as to burst a boiler, the inflammable contents of which being scattered about, the building appeared in an instant to be enveloped in flames, which penetrated the roof, and spread through the adjacent yard. The building was in part destroyed, but, by the speedy arrival of engines, further damage was prevented. Three workmen, named Page, Talford, and Berry, who were on the spot when the explosion took place, were so severely burnt and injured, that they were conveyed in cabs to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

On the 26th, a *Fire* broke out at the warehouses of Messrs. M'Culloch and Co., wholesale chemists and druggists, in Bishopsgate Street. The floors were well filled with drugs, but, fortunately, very little spirit or oil was in the building. A considerable amount of property was destroyed, but the adjoining buildings were preserved by the exertions of the firemen. The firm was insured.

A *Fire* broke out on the 23rd, at Clay-hill Hall, near Enfield, the seat of Mr. Bosanquet, the banker, in a detached building, which was being prepared for a library. It was of an old-fashioned construction, the fronting covered with ivy. Some persons had been engaged during the day in airing the place, and about six o'clock in the evening smoke was seen issuing from the windows. An alarm was raised, and an attempt made to enter the building. The heat and smoke were too overpowering to allow them to proceed far into the interior, and in a very short time the flames had full possession of the building. Engines were promptly despatched, but were not able to save any portion of the place. The exact loss is not known, but it is stated that some very choice books were stored in the building.

John Drury, a painter in Carey Street, was *Killed by a Fall* on the 25th. He lived with his wife in a garret. They had had a quarrel and a fight, which was put an end to by a fellow-lodger, and the wife went down stairs. Drury said he would not meet his wife again by descending the stairs, but would go down by the water-spout on the outside of the house, as he had often done before. He made the attempt, fell into the yard, and died on the spot.

On the 26th, an accident occurred at the mouth of the Devonport harbour, by which four persons were *Drowned*. The cutter of her Majesty's steam-ship Stromboli was proceeding from the vessel in Plymouth Sound to the harbour, when, between St. Nicholas Island and the main, the weather being boisterous, with a strong north-easterly wind, a large quantity of water was shipped at the lee-bow, and the cutter immediately sunk. The crew, consisting of 13 persons, were all immersed. The accident was seen from several quarters, and ten persons were rescued from their perilous position, but a midshipman and three of the cutter's crew were not recovered.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

A PUBLIC meeting called by the Aborigines Protection Society and the Peace Society was held at the London Tavern on the 30th of January, "to consider the fearful *Sacrifice of Human Life on the Coast of Borneo* in July last, and to petition parliament for the total and immediate abolition of the practice of awarding head-money for the destruction of pirates." Between three and four hundred persons were present: Mr. Joseph Sturge presided; Sir Joshua Walmsley and Mr. George Thompson were among the leading occupants of the platform. A letter from Mr. Cobden expressed reprobation of the sanguinary attack on the Sarebas Dyaks, "as a gratuitous and cold-blooded butchery, which brands its authors not only with cruelty but with cowardice." The chairman, as a commercial man, stated that his firm had paid hundreds of thousands of pounds for ship insurance, and he was not aware that they paid a shilling less for English vessels on the ground of their being protected by English men-of war: if the latter were all scuttled to-morrow, he believed he could go to Lloyd's next day and insure his vessels without a shilling more. He quoted a letter from China, to the effect that from 1845 to 1848 the writer never knew of an instance in which English vessels were attacked by pirates, "except such as were notoriously engaged in the illegal opium traffic." A seafaring man, who gave the name of "Captain Aaron Smith," here declared from the body of the meeting, that he could prove such attacks. He was invited to the platform, and took a place there. He then rose and said, that he had been attacked by pirates in the China seas, at midnight, by a fleet of prahus—no mere "baskets," but boats manned by a hundred men each, and rowed by seventy or eighty oars. He had navigated those seas thirty years, and the pirates had cost him many a sleepless night. Bound from Sourabaya to China on the 30th of April, 1836, he had been set upon by twenty of these pirates. "We had a three hours' engagement, and during that time I can tell you I killed as many men in proportion as Rajah Brooke. I only did my duty, for it was my duty to defend my ship. After a

three hours' engagement there was about a hundred of 'em shot. I destroyed one crew, and disabled the rest. The next morning I hoisted out the British ensign, that the chief of the pirates might know who he had to do with. But he hoisted up another British ensign. Now, he could'nt have bought one in those seas, and the one he held up could only have been gained by the massacre of those to whom it had belonged." He went on describing the ferocity and bloodthirstiness of these pirates, and assured the meeting that if they were not put down, they would cut off every British ship that went into those seas. His speech was received with mingled cheers and hisses. Mr. George Thompson next addressed the meeting, and said he hoped the meeting would commission him, in his place in parliament, to demand a commission of inquiry. Then they could have the last speaker before it to give evidence; and if he (Mr. Thompson) were on the inquiry, he would not be satisfied till he turned the witnesses inside out. Resolutions were passed, demanding a parliamentary inquiry into the slaughter of the Dyaks under the direction of Sir James Brooke, on a vague and general imputation of piracy, and condemning the principle of head-money for the destruction of pirates; and it was agreed to present a petition to parliament.

An important meeting was held in Freemasons' Hall, on the 6th, to promote *the Sanatory Condition of London*. The Bishop of London presided; several noblemen, some members of parliament, the Bishop of Chichester, and a number of clergymen, were present; Lord Ashley, Lord A. Grosvenor, Mr. Wyld, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Cumming, Mr. C. Dickens, Mr. Slaney, M.P. Mr. Pownall, and the Rev. Dr. Worthington, were the speakers. In opening the business, the Bishop of London observed, that amidst much that is dark and discouraging in these times, there is much to cheer and animate in this sanatory cause: its effect on public feeling, if carried out to the extent he hoped, would lessen the fearful chasms in respect of worldly comfort which divides the extremely poor from the extremely rich. A sense of this duty acting on a few individuals, and afterwards pressing upon a larger body of associated persons, has at length reached the legislature; and the legislature, thus awakened, had already done much. But the provisions for improving the health of London had proved by no means sufficient; and it was in the hope of urging government to effect stronger measures, that the meeting had been convened. Lord Robert Grosvenor said that the meeting was the resuscitation of an association practically defunct, in order that the metropolis might be brought under the general law respecting sanatory measures. Suitable resolutions were passed, and a number of noblemen and gentlemen were appointed to act as officers of the "Metropolitan Sanatory Association."

The returns of the Board of Trade just issued show a total increase of exports compared with those of 1848, to the amount of 9,901,717*l*. All the great staple manufactures shared the movement, except machinery, which fell off by 108,585*l*. The imports of wheat exceeded those of 1848 by more than 1,250,000 quarters, and at the same time the quantity taken for consumption was more than 4,500,000 quarters in excess of last year. The import of coffee increased largely, that of sugar moderately—the considerable increase in the Colonial being nearly balanced by a decrease in Foreign.

The Duke of Portland has announced to his tenants in Nottinghamshire, that, from Lady-day last, a moiety of their rents shall be calculated according to the average price of wheat for the half-year preceding the usual time of payment, taking 56s. per quarter as the standard of the present rents.

The Marquis of Hertford has announced his intention to allow 15 per cent. to such of his Irish tenants as pay their last half-year's rent by next April; and to allow certain other tenants tickets for draining to the extent of 20, 25, and, in some cases, 30 per cent. of their last half-year's rent, without any charge of interest. He asks the surrender of no lease, and much less will he interfere with the tenant-right which his tenants have enjoyed.

According to a report by Mr. Braidwood, the superintendent of the Fire Brigade, there were 838 fires in London during the last year; 256 of which were productive of much damage, the others were slight. There were eleven fatal fires, with a loss of twenty lives. In 1848, the total of fires was 805.

A deputation, representing the paper-makers, publishers, and printers of Great Britain, had an interview with Lord John Russell, in Downing Street, on the 12th, on the subject of *The Paper Duties*. The spokesmen were Mr. Crompton, of Farnworth, in Lincolnshire; Mr. James Baldwin, of Birmingham; Mr. Robert Chambers, and Mr. Charles Knight. Mr. Crompton urged the unfairness of imposing on a raw material of the most worthless character—the very refuse made from cotton and linen in the process of manufacturing them into cloth—a duty amounting to 600 per cent. upon its cost price when made into paper; whilst cotton manufactures have obtained the removal of a tax of only five-sixths of a penny per pound—not more than 5 per cent. on its value—on the cotton itself. He detailed various vexatious obstructions caused by the capricious and inconsistent conduct of the Excise; and urged the demoralising tendency of the tax, which was encouraging iniquitous practices, and breaking down the probity of manufacturers.—Mr. Robert Chambers illustrated the pressure of the paper-duties on the publication of cheap periodical literature. There was one called a "Miscellany of Tracts," which his brother and he published. It met a large sale, and was in the way of doing some good amongst the humbler classes. It returned, however, so slight a profit that they gave it up, while selling to the extent of 80,000 copies. On the whole amount of this work printed, the duty was 6220*l*. Now, this would have been a very ample profit in itself, though a mere shade upon each copy. In a cheap publication, the value of paper may be set down at nearly one-fourth of the selling price, and considerably above one third of the price to the retailer.—Mr. Charles Knight developed the injurious tendency of the tax on "cheap publications for which high priced skilled authorship is paid." He had been able to show that the duty had been a positive burden upon the "Penny Cyclopædia," to the extent of 16,500*l*. That work was undertaken under the auspices of Lord John Russell himself, amongst other eminent persons; but the cost had been borne by Mr. Knight. It had never been remunerative; for the cost was largely increased by the natural operation of the tax upon the price of paper This was an example of the peculiar burden of the tax upon the higher kind of literary labour, compelled to compete with low-priced authorship in the rate of cheapness. Mr. Knight believed that the great mass of publications were tending to cheapness—the good as well as the bad. He believed that books for the few were fast going out of demand; and further, that the many would ultimately pay the proper rewards of good writers as well as, if not better, than under the present system of a limited demand. But, with the paper-duty, the profits of a publisher employing the best authors to produce cheap books were so curtailed by the burden of the tax upon the large amount of paper used for such books, that the higher class of literature was deprived of its proper encouragement.—The Premier received the deputation with courtesy, but gave no indication of his sentiments on the subject.

A meeting was held at Willis's Rooms on the 13th for the purpose of condemning the measures of government for promoting *National Education*. Upon the platform were the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Bishop of Exeter, and the Bishop of Chichester; Lords Nelson, Campden, Fielding, Castlereagh, and Lyttelton; Archdeacons Manning, Thorp, Harrison, and Allen; and a long list of reverend dignitaries and gentlemen. The most notable speech was made by the Rev. Dr. Biber, who moved a resolution against the Kneller Hall Normal school, and concluded thus—"It was avowed by the Privy Council that the only Gospel taught at Kneller Hall was that which was comprised in the moral agencies relied upon by the Poor Law Commissioners for the elevation of the poor. Of him who sought to introduce such a Gospel into the education of this country he hesitated not to say, without any personal feeling, 'Let him be accursed;' and he believed that the events which would be witnessed by the next two generations would fully justify the use of such language."

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Queen and Prince Albert, with the guests at Windsor Castle, witnessed a dramatic performance, under the direction of Mr. Charles Kean, in the Rubens room, on the evening of the 1st. The piece was *Julius Cæsar*, and the leading parts were taken by Mr. Kean and Mr. Macready—the first time on which those performers have ever appeared on the same stage together.

Thomas Maitland, Esq., her Majesty's Solicitor-General for Scotland, has been appointed to the place of one of the Lords of Session, in the room of Francis Jeffrey, Esq., deceased; and James Monereiff, Esq., Advocate, has been appointed to the vacant place of Solicitor-General for Scotland.

Mr. Justice Talfourd has received from her Majesty the honour of knighthood.

The Lords of the Admiralty, on obtaining the sanction of the House of Commons to another expedition in search of *Sir John Franklin*, have lost no time in deciding on the plan to be adopted for proceeding in the direction of Davis's Straits, Lancaster Sound, and onwards to Melville Island; and orders have been sent to Woolwich to get two steam vessels and two dockyard lighters ready for sea at the shortest notice. Captain Austin has been daily at the Admiralty making the arrangements for the expedition which he is to command. Some thirty captains, including among them Captain William Peel, a son of Sir Robert Peel, and Captain Caffin, formerly of the *Scourge*, have volunteered their services, and earnestly pressed for commands in the expedition. Mr. Penny, whom Lady Franklin has engaged to conduct an independent expedition, has also been at the Admiralty, and has received encouragement and assurances of co-operation.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

LORD JEFFREY died at his residence in Moray-place, Edinburgh, on the 26th ult., in the 77th year of his age. He was admitted an advocate of the Scottish bar in the year 1794, and for forty years pursued that profession, filling the office of Lord Advocate, and attaining the dignity of the bench. He was married twice: first, in the year 1802 to Catharine, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Wilson, of St. Andrew's; and secondly, in the year 1813, to Charlotte, daughter of Mr. C. Wilkes, of New York, and grandniece of the well-known Alderman Wilkes, of London.

SIR FELIX BOOTH, BART., died at Brighton on the 18th ult. He was a wealthy distiller, and served the office of sheriff of London in 1828-9; he was also distinguished for his munificence, having presented Sir John Ross with 20,000*l.* to enable him to fit out his polar expedition.

LIEUT.-GENERAL ROBERT CRAWFORD, of the late Royal Irish Artillery, died on the 14th inst. He served in Holland in 1794 and 1795, and in 1798 he was actively employed in Ireland during the rebellion. He commanded the Irish Artillery when that force was consolidated with the British.

LORD GODOLPHIN died, on the 15th inst., at Gogmagog Hills, in Cambridgeshire, aged 73.

GENERAL LORD AYLMER, G.C.B., died on the 23rd, in his 75th year.

SIR WILLIAM ALLAN, R.A. and President of the Royal Scottish Academy, died on the 23rd, in his 68th year.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

IN the absence of any news of special mark from the colonies, news has gone out to them from us that will be more welcome than any transmitted during the present century. They will learn from it that the English prime minister has delivered views of colonial policy in parliament, which the most vehement advocates of their claims, and exponents of their wrongs, had hailed with satisfaction and delight. These views may indeed most worthily date a new era in colonial government. They were announced by Lord John Russell in proposing the measure for giving new constitutions to the colonies of Australia, and the principle which governs them may be briefly described. It is that wherever the British flag has been planted abroad, and a society of Englishmen has been brought together, the English institutions which secure English freedom shall hereafter have place among them, and development according to the growth of the colony. Thus, in the present instance of Australia, ample powers of local self-government are given, with only such reservation of imperial power as may be used with advantage to the colonists themselves. Nor was the satisfaction felt and expressed at the speech derived more from the premier's tone in regard to the future, than from the spirit in which he reviewed the past. The courage of entering a new path is not always attended by the courage of confessing an old error, but there was no flinching in the speech of Lord John. He did not say that having governed their colonies with consummate wisdom for a hundred years, it was now incumbent on English statesmen to govern them in a quite different way; but he frankly implied sufficient of past miscarriage, to guarantee strongly what he said for amendment in the future. It is a pity that something of the same spirit, bold yet prudent, does not govern and control the great soldier and reformer now in India. Sir Charles Napier is doing good in the most offensive way conceivable. His last general order is a denunciation of the Bengal army for gross military ignorance and want of discipline, in terms which will intercept half the benefit intended. Nevertheless the other half will be no inconsiderable boon.

The *Overland Mail* has brought advices from Bombay to the 17th of January. There is little intelligence of importance. A great sensation had been excited by a General Order issued by Sir Charles Napier, in which he censures most severely the state of discipline in the Bengal army encamped at Lahore. The following are some passages from this characteristic document, which is dated from Head Quarters at Lahore, on the 15th of December:—

"At the late review of the troops on the plain of Meean Meer, the following egregious deficiencies were evident to all—

"1st. That some commanders of regiments were unable to bring their regiments properly into the general line.

"2nd. One commanding-officer of a regiment attempted to wheel his whole regiment as he would a company.

"3rd. Several officers commanding companies were seen disordering their companies by attempting to dress them from the wrong flank.

"4th. When the line was ordered to be formed on the left column, some commanders deployed too soon, and ordered their lines (thus improperly formed) to 'double quick,' in order to regain their position. This was all bad; but it was worse to see the regiments, on receiving the word to 'double quick,' at once charge with loud shouts,—no such order to charge having been given by any one, nor the words 'prepare to charge': nor did anything occur to give a pretext for such a disgraceful scene, exhibiting both want of drill and want of discipline.

"5th. Bad as this was, it was not the worst. When these regiments chose to 'charge,' the Commander-in-chief, to his astonishment, beheld the men discharging their firelocks straight up in the air, and he saw some men of the rear-rank actually firing off their muskets to the rear over their shoulders as their bearers the will

not call them soldiers) were running to the front. He feels assured that no such scene could have occurred in any other regiments in the army: if ever such again happen, he will expose the commanding-officer of any regiment that so disgraces itself, in public orders, to the whole Indian Army. In the course of his service he never before witnessed such a scene. No commander could go into action with a regiment capable of such conduct without feeling certain that it would behave ill. The Commander-in-chief will, therefore, hold commanding-officers responsible (for they alone are to blame) that any soldier who shouts, or charges, or fires, without orders, be instantly seized, tried at once by a drum-head court-martial, and the sentence executed on the spot."

He adds:—"The Sepoy is both a brave and an obedient soldier; and whenever he behaves ill, it is in a great measure the fault of his commanding officer.

"The drill and discipline of all armies rest mainly with the commanders of regiments and of companies. They are in immediate contact with the officers, non-commissioned officers, and private soldiers; and to them general officers must look for that perfect obedience without which any army is an armed mob, dangerous to its friends and contemptible to its enemies.

"The Commander-in-chief does not apply this order to all commanders—he well knows that there are abundant first-rate soldiers, and first-rate regiments in the Indian army; but he applies it to those whose regiments are in bad order."

The news from *Canada* comes down to the 2d inst. The Quebec election had resulted in the return of the government candidate, M. Chabot: the votes were—2007 for Chabot, and 1203 for M. Legare, the Annexationist. It is stated that one-third of the voters held back rather than vote for the ministry or annexation. The contest lay between the French Canadians, the followers of Lafontaine, on the one hand, and those of Papineau, or the "Young Canada" party, on the other; and the result gave little cause for triumph either to the royalists or the annexationists.—A despatch had been received from Earl Grey approving of the dismissal of the magistrates who had signed the annexation manifesto, and directing other measures of discouragement and repression.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE old hackneyed phrase about foreign affairs is absent from the speech on the opening of Parliament. Her Majesty fails for once to inform us that she has received the most friendly assurances from all foreign powers. Lord Stanley regrets the omission very much, but it is doubtful whether the people generally will regret it. Vast numbers may be apt to think that friendly assurances from Russia, Austria, and such like, would be anything but complimentary just now. England aloof from these gentry, neither making nor meddling, leaving them to their own tyrannies and intrigues, and resolute to co-operate with none of them, whether for the strengthening of old despotisms or the creation of new despots, is in the position best suited to her own respectability and character. A more satisfactory contrast than that which was lately exhibited to the oppressed peoples of the continent could hardly have been desired by Englishmen. Very nearly about the time when General Lamoricière, the French ambassador at St. Petersburgh, was attending the Russian *Te Deum* for the defection of Görgey and the fall of Hungary, Sir William Parker, the British admiral in the Mediterranean, was sailing up the Dardanelles with a powerful fleet to support Turkey in her humane refusal to deliver up to the scaffold the fallen Hungarians.

The matter of most importance in the foreign politics of the past month has been the affair with Greece. Lord Palmerston, after trying years of negotiation for redress of certain confessed wrongs on the part of the Greek Government to British subjects, has at last proceeded to enforce those claims by the sharp argument of a blockade; the effect of which has been that all who were before the loudest in their indignation at the neglect of those wrongs, became suddenly the foremost denouncers of the means taken to redress them. It is natural perhaps, but inconvenient, that this instinct of sympathy with the weaker party should enter as much into the affairs of States as of men. Whether it be a culprit nation or an individual offender, the feeling which attends the wrong too rarely survives to the chastisement. With the largest class of over sensitive minds, the wrong doer under punishment is quite as worthy an object of sympathy as the sufferer under oppression; and the wretch pinioned beneath the halter, is in no respect the same as the wretch armed against his victim. However, arbitration in the present case is to settle the dispute; and King Otho, after much screaming and blubbering, is already wiping his eyes. His quarrel with us, or, to speak more properly, his spite against us, originates in nothing more offensive than the benefits we have conferred upon him, and our occasional advice to him from time to time to govern constitutionally.

Of incidents from abroad there are none worth remark. The daily occurrences in Paris, whether it be crusades of the police against the poor faded trees of liberty, or the great police engagement against the flowers flung around the funeral column of the victims of the 24th February on the recent anniversary of that notable day, or the bepuffed revelations of Chenu the shoemaker against the revolutionary heroes, are simply contemptible. Nor in truth is much more to be said for the solemn farce at Berlin in which Frederick William lately took the oaths to the new constitution of Prussia, protesting that he should govern for the future in accordance with the new laws and responsibilities placed around the Prussian throne, but at the same time declaring that he was to be obeyed as governor, not because it pleased himself or any body else, but because God had so ordained. Such a preposterous jumble of constitutional doctrine and divine right was probably never listened to.

The accounts from *Paris* state that the recent proceeding, on the part of the authorities, of cutting down the trees of liberty in all parts of the city, has given rise to serious popular disturbances. On the 4th inst., the artisans of the quarter St. Martin assembled in a large and tumultuous mob, and attacked the police while employed in cutting down some of those trees. The police repulsed the crowd, but were attacked with fury by increasing numbers; and several of them were wounded with hammers and sharp weapons. The military were promptly called out by General Changarnier and the rioters were put to flight, with loss of some two hundred or more of prisoners. In the course of the riot, General Lamoricière, passing in a coach, was hauled from his seat, and roughly handled, before he could retreat to the shelter of a house: he escaped at last, covered with mud. On the following day some slight collisions again occurred on the removal of more trees. The government issued a notice in the morning, stating that no more would be removed if they were not

made seditious centres. Several persons having defied this notice, by hanging symbols of revolution on a tree in the Rue St. Martin, the police were ordered to proceed with their work; and under the protection of the soldiery the offensive task was completed.

A horrible murder and suicide have been committed in *Paris*. A lieutenant of the 56th Regiment of the Line, lodging in the Rue du Havre, killed his mistress with his sword, and then threw himself from his window into the street. He was killed on the spot.

The King of *Prussia*, together with the two chambers, took the oath to the new constitution in the Hall of Knights, on the 6th; divine service having first been attended in the cathedral. The King and the Princes of the blood royal entered the hall together; the Prince of Prussia absented himself: the two chambers were present in mass, packed together wherever they could stand in the narrow hall: the constitution of the 31st January lay on a table in front of the throne. The King having taken his seat, rose, and in a tone solemn, though not without humour, said he would avail himself of the last occasion to address them unbound by the influence of ministerial responsibility. His Majesty's speech, which was patriotic in tone, and delivered with much earnestness, was listened to with eager attention; loud hurrahs burst from the assembly at its close. Count Brandenburg approached, and read the formula of the oath. The King, uncovering himself, pronounced the oath, raising his hand and eyes to heaven, and then with fervour exclaimed: "I, Frederick William, swear it—swear it so true—God help me!" The ministers were sworn to be faithful and obedient to the King, and conscientiously to observe the constitution. All the members of the two chambers were in like form sworn, each separately, and each according to his religious belief, raising three fingers of the right hand, and adding the characteristic asseveration of his creed. The minister then addressed the King in terms of homage and gratitude; the King replied by an invocation of God's blessing on the work, and departed; and the assemblage broke up with loud shouts of applause.

A letter from *Vienna*, of the 30th January, reports a disaster from a snow-storm, in the neighbourhood of Wieselburg. About 108 artillerymen received orders to march from Nickolsdorf to Parendorf. When on the road which leads across a great heath, they were surprised by such a terrific snow-storm that they soon completely lost their way, and many of them were frozen to death. A few, after suffering inexpressibly, managed to reach some of the neighbouring villages, and sent out the peasantry in search of their unfortunate comrades; but, alas! the twenty or twenty-five first found, among whom was the captain of the company, were already dead. The latter was on his knees. The rest have since been brought in dead or so frozen that there is but little hope of their recovery.

Intelligence from *Lisbon* has been received to the 9th. A stringent law against the press had been presented in the chamber of deputies. Violent attacks had been made on Thomar in the chambers, and equally severe remarks upon him had been indulged in by the press. The government have a majority. Saldanha had been dismissed from his office. The Prince de Joinville had been entertained with great distinction at the palace, and much importance was attached to his arrival in Portugal.

Accounts from *Rome* describe murders to be of nightly occurrence in the streets. On the 11th, General Baraguay D'Hilliers issued the following proclamation:—"Inhabitants of Rome—The General-in-chief, with a view of putting an end to the vile assassinations that endanger the lives of the officers and soldiers of the army, orders that no person shall henceforward carry about him knives, stilettos, or any instrument applicable to the perpetration of a crime. Whoever shall be found with such arms about his person shall be instantly shot."—The life of the Prince of Musignano, son of the Prince of Canino, was attempted on the 9th instant. While on the Corso with his sister, he lifted one of many bouquets thrown to him, and offered it to his sister, who was looking in another direction; an explosive concealed in the flowers burst in his hand. The prince was badly but not dangerously wounded in the hand and thigh, and the princess was slightly wounded in the leg. One hundred and fifty persons were arrested. It is further stated that Austria, having demanded that her arms should be replaced at Rome with the usual pomp, the Pope asked General Baraguay D'Hilliers whether on such an occasion he could answer for the tranquillity of the capital; to which the General had replied that he could answer for nothing, and that his troops would be consigned to their barracks and remain perfectly neutral. The idea of restoring the Austrian arms had been abandoned in consequence of this answer. The loan to the Roman government has been taken by the house of Rothschild. The amount is 33,000,000 francs, divided into 42,000 bonds of 78 francs each. The difficulties connected with this loan have for some time past been considered the principal obstacle to the return of the Pope to Rome, and it is now thought that there will be no further delay.

A letter from *Naples* of the 18th, announces that the King, at the suggestion of the Pope, had granted an amnesty to all the Neapolitans who had fought against the Austrians in Lombardy and at Venice. In the province of Aquila no less than 1846 prisoners had been restored to liberty. The amnesty, however, did not extend to persons detained for political offences of a domestic nature.

Advices from *Athens* of the 19th state, that Admiral Parker, having arrived with his fleet, had demanded from the Greek government the payment, within twenty-four hours, of all moneys due to the British, or protected British subjects, from Greece; also that the island of Sapentia and Cabrera, off the south-west side of the Morea, and which form a part of the Ionian Isles, should be immediately given up to him, threatening, in the event of refusal, to blockade the Piræus and make reprisals. Otho, however, refused the demand in toto, and Admiral Parker had consequently taken possession of the men-of-war in the Piræus, and blockaded the coast. The islands of Cabrera and Sapienza had also been taken possession of by English parties.

The advices from *New York* are to the 9th instant.

The President had addressed to Congress a message recommending that the constitution which California proposes for itself shall receive the sanction of Congress. The message was founded on the constitutional right of every new state to decide for itself whether slavery shall or shall not be among its institutions; thus combating the principle of the Wilmot proviso, that slavery shall be excluded from all new territories. In the particular instance of California, the new state has already decided against the existence of slavery within its confines.

In the senate, Mr. Clay had moved resolutions involving a settlement for the present of the slave question. He proposed to admit California as a state; to establish territorial governments over all other newly-acquired countries without reference to slavery; to abolish all traffic in slavery in the district of Columbia, but to declare it inexpedient to abolish slavery there without the consent of the citizens and the citizens of Maryland; also assuming the debt of Texas. Mr. Clay advocated his resolutions with effect, and induced the senate to defer their consideration some days for the same calm and patient consideration he had given them.

Four bills were before the senate on the subject of appropriating public lands. They propose the free granting of 160 acres of land to all applicants, whether native or foreign, on the condition of their residing upon them and cultivating them.

A serious *Affair with Pirates* has taken place in the river Seba, on the coast of Africa. An English merchant vessel, trading on the coast, was seized by a body of pirates, and some of the crew were shot. The governor of Bathurst obtained from the French governor of

Senegal a small war-steamer and some marines, to assist in punishing those banditti and retaking the vessel. An expedition, of two British and the French vessel, was formed against the island in the mouth of the river which the pirates inhabited. One of the British vessels, the Teazer, and the Ruby (the Frenchman) having gone up the creek where the island is situated, anchored off the place where they were to land. The Centaur, being too large to come up so far, sent up her boats, twelve in number, while she remained about three miles down. Captain Buckle, of the Centaur, and Lieutenant Selwyn, commander of the Teazer, then went in advance of the other boats near the shore, intending to demand the restitution of the vessel together with the men who murdered the crew; when he was fired at. The ball took effect on Mr. Young, midshipman of the Centaur, dangerously wounding him in the breast. The Teazer and Ruby, together with the boats that had cannon, then opened a furious cannonade, which lasted nearly half-an-hour. The natives stood it without answering a shot. They then attempted to land from the boats: however, the first that came near the bush, which they had to pass through, received a volley which took great effect, killing Lieutenant Crocket, commanding the marines, and dangerously wounding eight others, sailors and marines. They then withdrew, and our men landed without further opposition; and after beating about for some time, returned to their vessels. The next day the party went ten miles up the creek, and recovered the vessel without opposition or seeing a man.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE death of Francis Jeffrey has come with a certain strange surprise as well as general sorrow. No man had more successfully and thoroughly completed what may be called the appointed business of his life; but the public as well as private manifestations of his intellect were still so active and unwearied, and his sensibilities and enjoyments, to the last, were so young, that it was difficult to connect the idea of old age with him. He will be remembered with the *Edinburgh Review*. A most successful lawyer, and a bold as well as prosperous politician, his fame will nevertheless chiefly rest on his connection with that remarkable periodical. Some six or eight young men, living in Edinburgh at the beginning of the century, were its founders; of whom, the eldest, Sydney Smith, was thirty-four years old, and the youngest, Lord Brougham, was twenty-three. They were all busily engaged in other pursuits at the time; and what they called the "subordinate occupation" of literature, they perhaps thought, in their several conceits, to have been a little *too* subordinate. Certain it is, that they began very savagely. They hung out the black flag even in their motto; proclaiming writers to be a sort of criminals, whose lapse into literature would bring them justly to the dock, and promising that unmitigable judgments should there await them. This was hard, and was rather uncompromisingly carried out. For though a judge may be criminal who acquits the man of guilt, it is nevertheless safer to do this in a dozen cases than to condemn the innocent in one. But whatever was thus harsh or indiscreet has long ago passed away, and left nothing but an invigorating influence and a thoroughly good example. Nothing could be more touching or wise than Jeffrey's silent repudiation of the bitterness of his youth in the articles he republished a few years ago. All desire had died within him, then, but that of connecting with his name, in the regard of such as might take interest in his writings hereafter, only those papers which he hoped might have a tendency to make men happier and better. The Devil in the Revelations is described as having great wrath "because he knoweth he hath but a short time." Anger is fleeting, as faults are; but beauty and admiration endure. To measure the depth of a critic's perception by what he praises, therefore, rather than by what he blames, will be always the safest course; and we may assume that to discover the minutest faults more easily than the greatest beauties proves nothing but that the intellectual as well as the actual vision is subject to a kind of ophthalmia. Jeffrey's last act in literature substantially admitted this truth.

The publications of the month have been chiefly translations, continuations, and new editions. Of the last, the most valuable as well as interesting is the commencement of a new edition of Evelyn's *Diary and Correspondence* in a form which was greatly to be desired. Of translations three may be mentioned.

We have had a vivid English version of an Hungarian novel, called *The Village Notary*, by the Baron Eötvos, which has an interest even beyond its graphic scenes and characteristic portraiture, in its clever representation of the actual working of the local and self-governing institutions of Hungary, with all their abuses, as well as their points of merit. Guizot's treatise, *On the Causes of the Success of the English Revolution*, 1640-1688, has had the advantage of incomparable translation by Mrs. Austin, and is a thoughtful glance over a momentous half century of our English annals by a writer of keen and calm historical insight. It must be confessed, however, that its contribution to the philosophy either of politics or history is not great. For such a man as Guizot, relatively to the greatness of the subject, it is little more than a schoolboy theme. The *Memoirs of Cardinal Pacca*, which have been translated very cleverly by Sir George Head, derive their principal interest from the fact of the writer having been secretary of state to Pius the Seventh, when the latter was seized by Napoleon. The mishaps of Pio Nono have, to a certain small extent, renewed the interest of that passage of history; and will probably obtain a more respectable audience for the good cardinal's narrative, than its somewhat dull self-importance might otherwise have claimed.

Mr. Carlyle has commenced, under the title of *Latter Day Pamphlets*, a series of monthly lucubrations on Condition-of-England questions, and matters affecting the universe generally, which seem likely to attract no small attention and discussion. Miss Martineau has brought her *Continuation of the Pictorial History* to a close. Another very interesting volume of Southey's *Life and Correspondence* has been issued; and our month's summary of publications will be sufficiently complete when mention has been made of two somewhat clever books of travel. The first is, Baxter's *Impressions of Southern and Central Europe*, which are somewhat bitter impressions, not at all likely to be palatable to people who don't like ugly things called by ugly names. The second is a denunciation of *Turkey and its Destiny*, in two bulky volumes, by Mr. MacFarlane, whose hero is the Emperor of Russia, and who writes this enormous party pamphlet to prove that the poor grand old empire of the east is at last arrived at its "dying agonies."

Several new dramatic pieces have been produced during this month. The principal were—*Retribution*, a romantic play by Mr. George Bennett, at Sadler's Wells; *The Noble Heart*, a tragic play in three acts by Mr. M. G. Lewes, at the Olympic; and *Old Love and New Fortune*, a five-act play in blank verse, by Mr. H. F. Chorley, at the Surrey.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of Feb. 1. JAMES BARR, New Turnstile, High Holborn, and Old Road, St. Pancras, builder.—CHARLES COOKE, Stafford, grocer. — WILLIAM EDMONDSON, Ecclesfield, Yorkshire, coal-merchant. — JOSEPH FARRAH, Wych-street, Strand, victualler.—SAMUEL GIBSON, York, licensed victualler. —SAMUEL GLENNY, Liverpool, corn-merchant.—JAMES JONES, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, baker.—MAURICE JONES, Delamere, Cheshire, livery-stable keeper.—HENRY ROSE, Manchester and Salford, Lancashire, common brewer. — EDWARD STIDWORTHY, Modbury, Devonshire, inkeeper.—JOHN OLIVER SURTEES, Wigmore-street, Cavendish-square, printseller. — HENRY WATTS, Upper Bryanstone-street, Bryanstone-square, corn-dealer.—EDWARD WEST, Leadenhall-street, City, ship and insurance agent.—CHARLES WRIGHT, Crooked-lane, King-William-street, City, agent and dealer in edge-tools.—WALTER YONGE, Strand, watchmaker.

Feb. 5.—WILLIAM HULME, Manchester, tailor. — EZEKIEL JULIAN and JOHN JULIAN, New Bockingham, Norfolk, grocers. — JONATHAN LUCAS, Aldgate High-street, City, licensed victualler. — MARTHA MUNDY, Longcot, Berkshire, tailor. — WILLIAM PALMER and FRANCIS MORTIN PALMER, Loughborough, Leicestershire, hosiers. — GEORGE ROGERS, Compstall-bridge, Cheshire, grocers.—RICHARD STONE, New Oxford-street, tallow-chandler. — THOMAS THORNTON, Newark, Nottinghamshire, small-ware dealer.

Feb. 8. — HENRY CHARLES CAWSTON, Upper Dorset-place, Clapham-road, grocer.—THOMAS COOPER, sen., Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, locksmith.—ARTHUR FORD, Stokefleming, Devonshire, miller. — EDWARD WOLSEY, Wereham, Norfolk, corn-merchant.

Feb. 12.—JOHN BAKER, Cheltenham and Gloucester, boot-manufacturer.—ROBERT CHATTHAM, Goole, Yorkshire, innkeeper. —ROBERT PETER CROFT, Landsdowne-villas, Brompton, and Haymarket, tavern-keeper.—BENJAMIN DREWRY, Hulme, Lancashire, joiner.—JOHN HARRINGTON, Manchester, commission agent.—JOHN HARRINGTON MUSGRAVE, Eastcott-place, Ferdinand-street, Hampstead-road, and New Bond-street, embroiderer. —JAMES PATCHING, Henfield, Sussex, brewer.—WILLIAM POWNALL, Macclesfield, Cheshire, silk-manufacturer. — ROBERT SAVORY, Hereford, plumber.—WILLIAM EDWARD SMITH, Plymouth, shipwright.—EDWARD STEWARD, Boughton, Norfolk, corn-merchant. — WILLIAM WOODBRIDGE, Mincing-lane, City, colonial broker.—GEORGE WOODS, Portsea, Hampshire, saddler.

Feb. 15.—DAVID BLACKBURN, THOMAS PICKLES and WILLIAM BLACKBURN, Wadsworth, Yorkshire, cotton-spinners.—ABRAHAM DESFORGES WILLEY DESFORGES, Alford, Lincolnshire, brick-maker.—THOMAS SKELTON SLEIGHTHOLM, Scarborough, Yorkshire, painter.—FREDERICK JOHNSON, Lincoln, watch-maker.—RICHARD NOBLE and GEORGE MAY, Almondbury, Yorkshire, fancy-cloth manufacturers.—HUGH PARRY, Abergele, Denbighshire, druggist.—JOHN PRICE, Birmingham, cabinet-maker.—THOMAS SADLER and WILLIAM EDMUND SADLER, Brightlingsea, Essex, sail-makers.—JAMES STEPHENSON, Arbour-terrace, Commercial-road, draper. — JOHN WARSELDINE, Cambridge, upholsterer.

Feb. 19.—ABRAHAM DESFORGES WILLEY DESFORGES, Alford, Lincolnshire, brick-maker.—JOHN ELLISON, Selby, Yorkshire, linendraper. — RICHARD GREEN, Brighton, ironmonger. — ELI CORNELIUS HAWKINS, Bath, beer-retailer.—GEORGE HUTTON, Sheffield, grocer.—JOHN JAFFA and JOSEPH WILLIS, Liverpool, tailors. — JOSEPH JARDINE, Dartford, Kent, linendraper. — THOMAS SKELTON SLEIGHTHOLME, Scarborough, Yorkshire, painter. — ROBERT KING, Oxford, coal-merchant- — ROBERT KNIGHT, Lancaster, tea-dealer.—ANGUS NICHOLSON, Bowling, Yorkshire, linendraper.—JOHN PRENTICE, Oxford, ironmonger. —WILLIAM RICHARDS, jun., Wednesbury, Staffordshire, coach-smith.—ROBERT ROBSON, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, manufacturer of plaster of Paris.—HENRY JOHN STACY, Crosby-row, Walworth road, grocer.—JOSEPH STEPHENS, joiner, Coalbournbrook, Staffordshire, glass-manufacturer.—JOHN SYDENHAM, Poole, Dorsetshire, printer.

Feb. 22. — BENJAMIN AXFORD, Devonport, Devonshire, victualler.—JOHN BELPIN, Beaumont-street, St. Marylebone, coach-maker.—CHARLES JOSEPH CARTTAR, Greenwich and Shooters'-hill, Kent, solicitor.—ZECHARIAH RICHARD CATCHPOLE, Upper Lisson-street, Lisson-grove, cheesemonger. — THOMAS DUNN, Hastings, Sussex, builder.—WILLIAM HAMLEY, Crockernwell, Devonshire, victualler. — GEORGE JAMESON, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, mercer.—FRANCIS KEMP, Colchester, Essex, carpenter. —WILLIAM LUCAN, Preston, Lancashire, innkeeper.—NICHOLAS MARQUAND, Treforest, Glamorganshire, draper. — NICHOLAS MOULD, Woolwich, Kent, licensed victualler. — FREDERICK PEAKE, Honiton, Devonshire, linendraper.—THOMAS SKELTON SLEIGHTHOLM, Scarborough, Yorkshire, painter.—THOMAS YOLLAND, Ashburton, Devonshire, limeburner.

Feb. 26.—CHARLES JOSEPH CARTTAR, Greenwich and Shooters'-hill, solicitor. — LOUIS BERNARD CHOFFIN, Bristol and Bath, bookseller.—JOHN BERRYHILL CROSS, Cornhill, watchmaker— GEORGE MATTHEWS, Monmouth, pianoforte-seller. — JAMES SHARKEY, Saint Lukes, carpenter.—ABRAHAM WHELER, Buckingham, cabinet-maker. — JOHN DALE, Woodcock, Leeds, calenderer.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

Feb. 19.—THOMAS MATTHEW PEACOCK, Lower-marsh, Lambeth; High-street, Poplar; and Deptford; boot-maker.

THE STOCK AND SHARE MARKETS.

City, Feb. 27.

THERE has been a good deal of fluctuation in the home funds this month, prices having varied above 2 per cent. The earliest quotation of Consols was 96⅛ to ¼, but the unsettled aspect of the Greek question soon began to exert an influence on the market, the price falling to 95¼ on the 5th, and further declining to 94⅜ on the 14th. By the 20th the quotation had rallied to 95⅝, but since then the tone has been heavy, and to-day Consols are marked as low as 94⅝. They leave off, however, rather better, at 95 to ⅛.

The tendency of the Railway Share Market has been decidedly downwards, and a fall has occurred in the prices of nearly every line. The greatest decline has, however, been in London and North Westerns, owing to the reduction of the dividend from 7 to 5 per cent.

STOCKS.

	Prices during the Month.		
	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols	96⅝	94⅜	95⅛
Three per Cent. Reduced	96¾	94⅞	95⅜
Three and a quarter per Cents.	99⅛	97½	97½
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860	8 11/16	8 9/16	8⅝
Bank Stock	207	205	207
India Stock	269	265	267½
South Sea Stock	106⅝	104½	104½
Exchequer Bills	61*s.* prm.	54*s.* prm.	57*s.* prm.
India Bonds	93*s.* prm.	84*s.* prm.	88*s.* prm.

RAILWAYS.

Paid.		Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
50	Caledonian	12¾	11¼	11½
20	Eastern Counties	7⅛	6⅞	7⅛
20	Great Northern	7⅛	5⅞	5⅞
100	Great N. of England	232	225	225
100	Great Western	70	56	58
50	Hull and Selby	103	98	98
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	55	50	50
50	Leeds and Bradford	104¼	93	98½
100	London and Brighton	85¾	79	79
100	London and North Western	117	104	105
100	London and S. Western	69	63	65
100	Midland	44½	40	40½
33⅛	South Eastern	20¼	18	18⅝
25	York, Newcastle, and Berwick	16½	14⅜	14½
50	York and North Midland	20	17¼	17¾

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Feb. 26.

The market for all descriptions of grain has been exceedingly dull during the month, with very small arrivals, and prices have undergone scarcely the least variation. The London averages last announced are as follows:—

Wheat, per quarter, 40*s.* 10*d.*
Barley, 24*s.* 7*d.*
Oats, 16*s.* 7*d.*
Rye, 23*s.*
Flour, Town made, delivered, per 280 lbs., 38*s.* to 40*s.*

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt. — Waterford 46*s.* to 48*s.*
Beef, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 1*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*
Butter, per cwt., Carlow, 82*s.* to 84*s.*; Leer 55*s.* to 60*s.*; Dorset, 84*s.* to 96*s.*; Fresh, per lb., 8*d.* to 11*d.*
Cheese, per cwt., Cheshire, 56*s.* to 78*s.*; Wiltshire, double, 50*s.* to 58*s.*
Eggs, English, per 120, 7*s.* 9*d.*
Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 74*s.* to 84*s.*; Irish, 82*s.* to 86*s.*
Lamb, per 8lbs., 5*s.* 4*d.*
Mutton, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*
Potatoes, per ton.—Yorkshire Prince Regents, 80*s.* to 100*s.*; Common Whites, 70*s.* to 75*s.*
Pork, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
Veal, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 4*d.* to 4*s.*

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt. — Grenada, 37*s.* to 42*s.*
Coffee, per cwt. — Good ord. native Ceylon, 61*s.*; good Mocha, 72*s.* to 74*s.*; Rio, 53*s.* to 60.
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal, 9*s.* 6*d.* to 11*s.* 6*d.*
Sugar, per cwt.—Good brown lumps, 51*s.* to 52*s.*; good brown Jamaica, 36*s.* to 37*s.*; Brazil white, 43*s.* to 48*s.*
Tea, per lb. (duty 2*s.* 1*d.*),— Full flavoured Congou, 1*s.* 1*d.*; ditto Souchong, 1*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; Hyson, 1*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*

Candles, per 12 lbs., 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*; Coals, per ton, 13*s.* 6*d.* to 18*s.*

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Monthly Supplement to "*HOUSEHOLD WORDS*," *Conducted by CHARLES DICKENS.*

THE

HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE

OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1850.] FROM THE 1ST TO THE 31ST MARCH. [PRICE 2*d.*

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

THE judgment of the Privy Council in the case of *Gorham and Exeter* has spread consternation and dismay throughout the Romanisers in the English Church. They are everywhere up in arms. They are forming Church Unions into what their chief newspaper organ calls a "line of battle" against the State. They are reading protests in their churches against the right of the Privy Council to deliver judgment in such a matter. They are denouncing everybody in any manner connected with furthering and promulgating the particular judgment, be they archbishops, judges, ministers, nay, even the supreme ecclesiastical Head and Governor herself, as involved in heresy! Dr. Philpotts flatly refuses to obey the decision; and Dr. Blomfield waits to see how far it will be safe to go, beyond the cautious admission that he "does not concur in it.'

It is for all who are sincerely attached to the principles and doctrines of the Reformation to understand what is really meant by these movements on the part of men who style themselves Protestant Churchmen. The judgment of the Privy Council against which all this abuse is directed, does no more than reiterate the wise and tolerant principle on which the Protestant Establishment has always rested. But manifestly any such principle does not now satisfy a large section of the men to whose keeping her interests and doctrines have been committed. They are bent and resolved upon shutting up, as far as lies within their power, all the safety-valves provided at the Reformation for a reasonable latitude and difference within the Reformed Church. The judgment against which they clamour declares nothing more, in effect, than that the subscription of certain articles, and the adoption of certain formularies, should be held sufficient to cover a considerable latitude of construction, and liberty for divergencies of opinion, in disputed points of dogmatic theology. To question any proposition so moderate and reasonable, is to hanker after infallible claims. Indeed, if a question was to be raised upon the judgment, it might have seemed to good and honest Protestants much more natural to object to the license extended by it to such opinions as those of Doctor Philpotts, than to the liberty reserved by it for such as those of Mr. Gorham. Supposing, for example, the fanatical high-church party to succeed in their now declared object of overthrowing the practical supremacy of the Crown, the whole Establishment would at once be put in peril. The church established by the nation cannot exist independently of the nation: nor can it fall into these unseemly disputes without losing some part of the authority by which it exists. Every fresh outbreak of such fanaticism has its effect upon the people, however little perceptible at the time; for they are not ignorant that the brawling priests hold their bishoprics, archdeaconries, and vicarages by the very power and tyranny they are constantly denouncing. They know perfectly well that Protestantism, as it now exists with the support of the State, is the sole bulwark against claims and authorities always clashing and claiming to be co-ordinate, which its removal would bring at once into internecine conflict. They have hitherto been true to it, and been willing and wise to adhere to it, because under it they have enjoyed the benefits of the most practically tolerant church system ever invented; but let it once be settled by authority that Tractarianism is the true exponent of its spirit, and the question will not be one of reform, but of removal. The English people will never again trouble themselves to reform an establishment which they may happen to dislike.

There would thus appear to be much more reason to object to the Privy Council's tolerance of High Church Philpotts, than to its tolerance of Low Church Gorham; and this is the feeling of a majority of true Protestants, and honest members of the church. But the fanatics will not see it; and scarcely a week passes in which the question of some fresh ecclesiastical outrage does not startle friends of the establishment into alarmed question of what the next madness will be. One of the most recent specimens of high church Christianity was a flat refusal to marry a young couple, on the plea that the man had not been confirmed, but in reality because he had preferred giving notice out of church to having the banns published in church. "As you have been asked by the guardians, let the guardians marry you," was the decent sneer of the pattern divine; and the result was the birth of a bastard child, which, but for that un-Christian refusal of the rites of the church, would have been born legitimate. What a comment on the spirit of a clergyman's teaching! Two young persons who had erred, claim the service of a minister of the Gospel to aid them in their escape from Sin; but so far from the helping hand being given, they are thrust back into its worst temptation and most enduring shame. The reverend man had some decency, notwithstanding. He did not quote the Saviour's "Sin no more," to support his own refusal to snatch them from further degradation. So much modesty is not common to all his brethren. The cursing priest who figured in our last summary, for instance, has since defended his imprecation with Scripture warrant; protesting that he had but quoted St. Paul's denunciation against falsifiers of the Gospel. In other words, this tolerant and Christian minister would bring under the awful curse of the Apostle, all who have sanctioned the plan of education adopted at a particular training school in connection with the administration of the government system by the Committee of the Privy Council. That is, he would curse the whole Government to begin with; then he would throw in the few good and pious prelates who have assisted them in this matter; he would next offer up the entire liberal minority of the church; and would complete the holocaust by bringing the sacred Head of the church herself within St. Paul's imprecation. And all for what? Admitting to the extreme the error charged, it would be no more

than an error of conscientiousness—a means mistaken for a purpose confessedly benevolent. But the man guilty of such wicked malice to his fellow-men, knows perfectly well that he differs only in degree from a large and powerful section of ministers of higher rank and authority in the church, and from men of distinction and influence in both branches of the legislature, who are substantially as guilty as himself of hurling similar imprecations against those who have merely opposed the exclusive claims of a particular party of bigots to control the general civilisation of England. The late carping debate in the House of Lords on the working of the Government scheme, and in awful deprecation of the success of Mr. Fox's scheme, meant this if it meant anything. Well might Lord Brougham warn their lordships, that, in the conflict, Education was falling to the ground "instead of winging its way through wind, and air, and mounting aloft to its native skies."

A sober practical translation of that eloquent flight of his Lordship's happens to lie close at hand. Let us take some very recent gaol returns presented to the House of Commons, in proof of the connection of ignorance and crime, and of the responsibility of our legislature and platform-brawlers for the continuance of both. The returns are alphabetical, and our examples shall be taken impartially from the four first letters of the alphabet. Of a hundred and ninety-six prisoners at Abingdon, thirteen were in utter ignorance, and unable to repeat the Lord's Prayer; fifty-two could not read; and eighty-three knew neither the Creed nor the Commandments. In Bedford the great majority of the prisoners were ignorant, stupid, unconcerned, and unacquainted with the commonest Scripture phrases. In the Berkshire County Gaol, out of six hundred and thirty-one prisoners, two hundred and thirty-six were ignorant of the alphabet, while two hundred and four were uninstructed in the first principles of the Christian faith, and ignorant even of the Saviour's name. The chaplain observes in his report that children, or men still childish, had indeed learned to read and write, but had not learned to think about or understand anything which they had been taught. That is, in strict consonance with the Sunday-school system which was described in our last summary, the ears had heard, and the tongue had learned utterance, but the mind had received no idea, no impression. Lamentable is it, proceeds this excellent man, that even the criminal population of a Christian land should show a proportion of one-third strangers to the very simplest truths of religion. The report of the Brecon chaplain is somewhat similar. He says that though the majority of prisoners can read imperfectly, yet their education has been so defective that they have no notion of the bearing and connection of one part of a sentence with another, or of the meaning of words of continual occurrence in Scripture. Nine out of ten were utterly ignorant of the merest rudiments of Christianity; six out of ten did not know whose son Jesus Christ was, nor wherefore he came into the world; and five out of ten did not know the name of the Queen. In Buckinghamshire about one half of the prisoners could read and write, and one fourth could read (without apparently understanding) easy passages of Scripture; but another fourth were in complete ignorance, and this ignorance, the chaplain adds, had been uniformly accompanied by the greatest depravity. In Cambridge, one of our highest seats of Christian learning, out of two hundred and twenty-nine prisoners, only one hundred and forty were able to read, eight-nine could not read, sixty-one could not repeat the Lord's Prayer, and eighty-eight were ignorant of the Commandments and the Creed. In Cornwall, out of six hundred and eighty-eight prisoners, three hundred and four could neither read nor write, while one hundred and thirty-nine could not repeat the Lord's Prayer, and were ignorant of the Saviour's name. Finally, in Dorset, out of six hundred and seventy-four prisoners, four hundred and nine did not understand the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, and a hundred and nineteen were entirely ignorant, one or two of the very name, and all of the work and mission, of the Redeemer.

Let the reader imagine the other twenty letters of the alphabet supplying cases yet more striking than these, and measure the guilt of responsibility for obstructing education in England! Let him imagine how far the curse of the great Apostle might indeed be found applicable to men, who, in place of grappling with gigantic evils so directly claiming the application of their functions, are playing at little holy games of penance and confession; are transforming the manly services and liturgy of our Protestant Church into something little better than the incantations of a parcel of howling dervishes; and, learned in flowers, processions, genuflexions, surplices, candles, altar-pieces, offertories, and singing men and boys, are only ignorant when the Gospel has to be expounded, or the vital truths of Christianity enforced. Again, however, in justice it is to be said, that such mummeries and follies could not exist for a day without countenance from the higher authorities. As surely as Mr. Gorham would have been driven out of the church by the Bishop of Exeter, but for the prudent control established at the Reformation; so surely are the men who have insulted the Reformation, such as Mr. Bennet and Mr. Allies, only retained within the church by favor of the Bishop of London and the Bishop of Oxford.

Yet the House of Lords, which desires No More education, is quite ready to raise the cry of More bishops! Most vigorously was it shouted forth in the discussion on the Ecclesiastical Commission Bill, when, moderate as the proposed provisions are for the appropriation of large surplus revenues to the succour of the poor working clergy, nothing was so vehemently insisted upon as that such provisions would preclude the creation of new bishopries. With nothing but the wealthy "prizes" do their lordships sympathise. The clause for lowering the emoluments of cathedral deans from fifteen hundred to a thousand a year was disabled, and that for consolidating the episcopal with the common fund was thrown out altogether. Lord Stanley led the opposition on this point, and frankly stated his objection to mixing the two funds. If they were not kept apart, he said, the parochial clergy would have a plausible ground for complaining, that, in establishing a new bishopric, funds were taken which might have been applied for the support of forty clergymen. This was at least candid; and it is to be hoped will not be forgotten, either when the next appeal is made for a plethoric bishop, or the next complaint for a starving curate. That the one class may be overpaid the other must be stinted, it is thus plainly confessed; nor must forty working clergymen be simply satisfied now, lest the chance should be run hereafter of undergorging one right reverend prelate. The Bishop of St. Asaph completed the self-exposures of this memorable debate, by protesting he was convinced that no men in the country worked harder than the bishops. They were, he affirmed, really the working clergy; and so pathetic was the good man upon the subject, and upon the spiritual assistance for sundry places in his diocese which his own straitened means and overburthened energies obliged him to forego, that one could hardly be surprised if he originated a bill for relieving his episcopal brethren of at least the legislative portion of their labours.

Meanwhile this definition of his right reverend brethren as the real labouring classes of England, comes in timely aid and illustration of an admirable remark of Mr. Roebuck's on the question of extending the franchise, so as to bring the most intelligent members of the working classes within its pale. Mr. Hume's proposal was to make the franchise co-existent with the poor-rate, to take the votes by ballot, and to limit the duration of parliament to three years; all excellent proposals, though it may be doubtful whether something better than a uniform franchise, something that would be more likely to include the different conditions presumptive of education and intelligence, might not be devised. The proposition was opposed, of course, by the hackneyed cry of property as a necessary basis of the franchise, and by the old conventional distinctions between property and labour; as if either property or labour could be so strictly defined, as accurately to measure the guarantees of the one, or the non-restraints of the other. For in regard to property, would any one dream of asserting that the prudences arising out of its possession were to be rated by its positive magnitude rather than by its value in the eyes of its possessor, or that the working man with ten or twenty pounds in a savings' bank might not have an interest in property a thousand times more vivid and intense than a needy spendthrift with his nominal thousands a-year? And as for labour, if a labouring man is to be excluded, why should the Bishop of St. Asaph remain? But no wiser thing could be said on this head than was said by Mr. Roebuck, though without the inspiration of the Bishop of St. Asaph's discovery. Was not the whole character of the entire country, he asked, as one piece of paper, shaded all over with the shade of labour; darker here and lighter there, it was true, but still all shaded, except perhaps where the house of lords (when a bishop didn't happen to be present, he should have interposed) occupied one small spot of light? Where, on this dark page of work, all occupied with labour, from the lowest operative to the highest intellectual labour, were we to begin to mark out the labouring class? It was an idle bugbear, he added, this alarm about the labouring classes; it arose in a great degree from putting under one name classes wholly various in position, interests, everything; and the sooner we got rid of it the better. True: but yet it will not be wholly got rid of, till the present deplorable ignorance of a part of the population of labour is first got rid of. That is the real danger. That is the bar to anything like immediate and general concession of the franchise; though unquestionable guarantees both of conduct and intelligence already exist, sufficient to warrant its instant and large increase; and with every step of advance in the latter respect, the country will make so many advances to its own content, and clearance from the pest of trading agitators.

The work of the agitators for protection, by the way, has been greatly simplified and assisted during the past month, by the fact of a section of the free-traders giving them unexpected support. To such a pitch of distress has free-trade brought the country, is now the averment of our farmers' friends, that the country can no longer support its needful burdens, or keep up its establishments, or pay its servants properly. Everything must be reduced. Whereupon some score or so of free-traders echo the cry, and consent to play the game of their enemies by way of spiting their friends into economy. Yet is this an ill reward to men who had brought on themselves the protectionist clamour about burdens, by no worse miscarriage than that of relieving the country, for the sake of free-trade, of its greatest burden of all. If they had only done nothing, they would not now have been asked to do anything. They suffer as the Chancellor of the Exchequer does for a successful stroke in finance. Poor Sir Charles Wood has been all the month undergoing the troubles and distresses of a surplus. What is a million and a half amidst claims that would swallow up fifty millions? Mr. Disraeli would confiscate the whole sum in the shape of a transfer of local burdens to the consolidated fund. Mr. Drummond would put more of it in the pockets of the landlords by reducing establishments. Timber carries a motion in its own behalf in the House of Commons. Stamps complain that they will not be distributed anew, so as to relieve small properties, and draw higher sums from properties that are large. Malt says it has as good a claim as bricks; hops claim precedence over malt; tea says it has a better claim than either; the newspaper stamp cries out in the name of knowledge; the advertisement duty has many poor clients to clamour for; and even bricks, most lucky commodity of clay, complain that their remission is not accompanied by a drawback, and their bread buttered on both sides. Poor, luckless, prosperous, Chancellor of the Exchequer! But in what he has done, if he has offended powerful claimants, whom in any case he could hardly have satisfied, he has at least offered service where there was little power to enforce, and therefore more need to receive. It is the poor who will be chiefly benefitted by the remission of the duty on bricks. They will feel it in the improved comfort of their dwellings, where reformation is still so much required for the sake of morals, not less than for that of cleanliness and health.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

On the 4th inst. the house went into committee on the *Party Processions (Ireland) Bill*. The Duke of Wellington objected to the bill, as not going far enough. He never could understand the reason why the Legislature should not prevent persons in Ireland from appearing abroad with arms; a privilege which he ventured to say does not exist for the people of any other portion of the civilised world. Why should any person be allowed to appear with arms, except for sporting, as in this country? and why not require every man appearing abroad with arms to produce his certificate, or be deprived of his arms, and be called to account for possessing them under such circumstances? He gave notice, that either on the report or at the third reading, he should propose a clause, and he hoped the government would not object to it, to carry out his opinion.

The Marquis of Lansdowne observed, that it would be difficult to introduce such a clause into a "bill to restrain party processions;" and he questioned the expediency of converting the bill into an arms bill though far from saying that it might not be necessary to introduce one. Lord Stanley saw the force of this objection, and suggested, that the penalty of forfeiture of arms should be imposed on armed appearance in procession, as well as on refusal to separate after command.

The bill passed through committee, and was reported.

The above bill was read a third time on the 8th. The Duke of Wellington proposed a clause declaring that arms borne by persons assembled to the number of three or more, should be seized and forfeit. The Marquis of Lansdowne declared, upon information which he should be happy to show privately to the Duke of Wellington, that, although the introduction of the clause would not prevent the passing of the bill in the House of Commons, it would occasion such delay that it would not be passed in time to prevent an outrage on the 17th of March: Ribandmen were making preparations to violate the law on that day, and to renew the collisions which had so often ended in bloodshed. The existing Arms Act, pronounced by Lord Clarendon to be "the best ever passed," would have to be renewed this summer, and into that bill Lord Lansdowne pledged himself to introduce a clause like that now proposed. The clause was withdrawn. But after some discussion, Lord Monteagle

induced ministers to acquiesce in a clause which would subject to forfeiture arms borne by persons in processions, &c., forbidden by the bill itself.

On the 11th, Earl GRANVILLE moved the second reading of the *Railway Audit Bill*, and after recapitulating the details of the measure alluded to the bill prepared by certain shareholders of the North-Western Railway, to which the government could not give their support, because it would not secure a continuous and independent audit. Lord STANLEY would not oppose the second reading of the bill if the government would promise not to press it forward too rapidly. He had been requested to take charge of the other audit bill, to which Lord Granville had alluded, and though he was little verse in railway matters himself, he hoped the house would not object to have the bill printed; and trusted that though the government bill might be read a second time, yet its rival would receive a due share of consideration. Lord MONTEAGLE again expressed his satisfaction that the government had taken this question up, and hoped the house would remember the immense amount of property sunk in railways, as well as the fact that the accounts of those companies had got into such confusion that no confidence was placed in them. Public confidence could only be restored by an independent audit, and as he could not support the government bill in all its parts, he thought the better course would be to send both bills to a select committee, which could take the evidence of gentlemen connected with railways and conversant with financial matters. Lord GRANVILLE undertook not to hurry the bill on without affording due time for consideration; and it was read a second time.

On the 14th Earl GREY moved the second reading of the *Convict Prison Bill*. The system which the government designed to follow as regards the graver class of criminals was explained by him to include a preliminary imprisonment in this country, in which separate confinement (for a term not exceeding eighteen months), education, industrial instruction, and various species of corrective discipline were to be employed successsively or altogether for the purpose of reforming the convicts. The principal alterations contemplated by the government were that penal labour, which had always formed part of the sentence of transportation, should be effected where it could be more clearly superintended by the government, as at Gibraltar or Malta; and that penal labour should be preceded by a period of separate imprisonment. They also proposed that the convicts sentenced to transportation should be removed from this country, not in a penal condition, but with conditional pardons—as exiles, instead of convicts under sentence. Lord Grey further entered into details, to show the useful purposes which the convicts had been made to serve in New South Wales. Various contrivances were now to be added to increase their utility, and protect the colonists from danger or expense. Free emigration was also to be encouraged, so as to avoid the danger of having the settlement swamped with a criminal population. For this purpose the legislative grants for emigration would be available, as also to transmit their wives and families to such convicts as should deserve that privilege. The bill was read a second time.

The *Greek Question* was again brought forward on the 15th. Lord STANLEY said that there were facts on which he required direct information. He had understood that, from the period of the acceptance of French mediation, hostilities should cease, and that reprisals had been confined to Greek vessels of war, yet that limitation had been set at nought. After referring to several public papers, his lordship complained that Lord Palmerston's despatch to Mr. Wyse of the 8th of February, which ought to have contained instructions to cease hostilities, was silent on the point, and the British fleet was consequently placed in an unworthy situation. It had been altogether unnecessary to blockade and capture. France and Russia expected that, on the mediation of the former, hostilities should immediately cease, and, though the necessary instructions had been left out of the packet, that so trifling a circumstance should not endanger the peace of the world. We were bound to protect the Ionian Islands, and, with France and Russia, to guarantee the independence of Greece. It was the more necessary to ensure a good understanding with France and Russia respecting Greece, as on the good understanding with those powers depended the peace of the world.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE, after admitting that the noble lord had confined himself to facts, replied that, on the 5th of February, though the French ambassador stated that he was not authorised by his government to make an offer on the subject of the affairs of Greece in form, yet that a private letter, dated the 5th of February, was sent by Lord Palmerston to Mr. Wyse, directing him to discontinue the then existing state of things. On the 7th, the French government made a formal offer, and instructions were instantly sent in duplicate, *viâ* Naples and *viâ* Marseilles, on the 15th and 16th of February, to Mr. Wyse, and were carried out by him on the 1st of March. Even before those instructions the blockade had been discontinued by Sir W. Parker. The reprisals had been limited to a sufficient sum to cover the demand made on the Greek government.

On Monday the 18th, Lord BROUGHAM called attention to the constitution of the House of Lords and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as *Courts of Appeal from the Decisions of our Colonial Tribunals*, and quoted a number of statistics to show their inadequacy to these duties. He praised the education now given at the East India College at Haileybury, and impressed upon the government the importance of selecting highly qualified judges for our colonial possessions, strongly condemning the paltry salaries of judicial functionaries there, and the miserable policy which, by paying them insufficiently, and refusing them retiring pensions, prevented the best lawyers from accepting these appointments. He concluded by moving a series of resolutions in accordance with his speech. The resolutions were laid upon the table and ordered to be printed.

A little *Personal Sparring*, between Lords Brougham and Stanley, amused the house on the 21st. Lord BROUGHAM, in referring to the contemplated exhibition in 1851 of the works of all nations, alluded to the circumstance of his having been designated by Lord Stanley at the Lord Mayor's dinner on the previous evening, as his "volatile friend." "Volatile," said Lord Brougham, "means flighty; but I, to answer a speech made in my presence in the House of Lords, have never flown to the House of Mayors."—Lord STANLEY was sorry he had occasioned disquietude to his noble and learned and very grave and discreet friend; but he *had* been "somewhat volatile." "In point of acuteness, activity, rapidity, and pungency, sal volatile is nothing when compared with my noble and learned friend. You *may* put a stopper of glass or leather on that etherial essence; but I defy any human power, even that of my noble and learned friend himself, to put any stopper, either of glass, or leather, or any other material, over the activity, ingenuity, and pungency of his mind. Volatile his wit and readiness of humour are, but acrimonious or offensive never; that I shall at all times be prepared to deny. I hope the long friendship between us will not be disturbed for a single moment by the expression I used I will form a more correct estimate of his character: I will look on him, not as one of those great, rapid, and energetic men, who take part in any and every question—and come in with such velocity that they seem not many questions but one continuous question; but as a man of a grave, serious, plodding, and rather slow and heavy nature—not hasty in taking up a subject, nor in laying it down—nor in expressing his opinion upon it—unless he had previously considered it in every light and in every bearing. If my noble and learned friend will put himself under my tuition—and, considering the constancy with which he favours us with his company on this side of the house—I may perhaps venture to give him one hint: it is, that when my noble and learned friend favours us with his sincere opinions he should not give them *so much* an air of irony, and that when he wants to promote an object like the Exhibition of 1851 he should not throw out a sarcasm that is calculated to deter people from supporting it—to make them think that they are great fools if they suffer themselves to be deluded by it. He should separate that which is serious from that which is ironical. And if his real desire was,

as he says, to promote the objects of this great exhibition, I very much regret that he did not accept the invitation of the Lord Mayor, that we might have thanked him for the effective aid with which he has, it appears, endeavoured to promote its ultimate success by the speech he delivered the other night in this house."

Lord Brougham, who sat covering his face with his hand, now rose to reply, with much energy. In the course of his reply, he declared that he possessed the kindest and most benevolent feeling that he could possibly entertain for Lord Stanley; but rebuked him for attempting by a dull joke to set people laughing at an absent man. He concluded by saying that no one could entertain a higher respect for that illustrious Prince; a respect increased by the interest which the Prince has recently shown in the condition of the working classes—"so that it is difficult to know which most to admire, the sound judgment or the benevolent feelings of the Prince."—Their lordships, who had roared with laughter during this encounter, now composed themselves and proceeded to business, which was of an unimportant nature.

On Monday, the 25th, Lord Brougham moved the second reading of a bill intended to *Reform the Proceedings in the Court of Chancery*, in cases where the will of a deceased person was uncontested, and to assimilate the proceedings to the course provided under the winding up of railway acts. The noble and learned lord introduced his motion with a graphic description of the delay, expense, and irritation to which parties were subjected in that court, even in cases where there was no opposition whatever, and stated that the effect of his measure would be to reduce the preliminary expenses from between 200*l.* to 300*l.*, which they were now, down to 5*s.*, with a proportionate saving in all the subsequent steps of the suit. Lord Langdale expressed a cordial concurrence in the objects of the bill, though he had some doubts whether this measure would attain them. The bill was then read a second time, and the house adjourned for the Easter recess until Thursday, April 11th.

On Thursday, the 28th of February, in the House of Commons, Mr. Hume moved for leave to bring in a bill to *Amend the National Representation*, by extending the elective franchise to resident occupiers of houses or lodgers for a year, rated to the poor; by enacting that votes shall be taken by ballot; the duration of parliaments limited to three years; and the proportion of representatives made more consistent with the amount of property. The debate which ensued was not characterised by novelty, the usual topics being urged on both sides. On a division the motion was negatived by 242 against 96.

On Friday the 29th, Sir B. Hall presented several petitions from subscribers to Mr. Feargus O'Connor's *National Land Scheme*, complaining that they had been deceived. Mr. O'Connor defended himself: he had deceived nobody; had got no money out of anybody; and had neglected no means of securing the welfare of his clients and subscribers. The petitioners had paid, he said, little or no rent; the scheme was his debtor for large advances, and it was no fault of his that the company had not been fully registered, and its financial concerns placed under the control of responsible trustees. He had applied to Lord Duncan and Mr. S. Crawford to assume those functions, but had received a refusal from the former. Finally he promised to offer a bill to settle the affairs of the association under the supervision of parliament.

Lord Palmerston, on Monday the 4th of March, gave some explanations respecting the *State of our Relations with Greece*. He said that application for redress having been refused by the Greek government, reprisals had been made upon Greek vessels in order to obtain security for satisfying our demands, and that the reprisals were thought, at the date of the last accounts, the 18th of February, to be sufficient for the purpose; that the good offices of the French government had been accepted, but that the French negotiator had not arrived; that diplomatic relations with Greece had not been suspended, Mr. Wyse being still in diplomatic intercourse with the Greek government, and his lordship mentioned a confirmatory fact, which, however, appeared to be rather amusing than convincing to the house, namely that the British fleet had fired a salute in honour of the Queen of Greece.—*The Parliamentary Voters* (Ireland) *Bill* was considered in committee. Sir R. Ferguson moved the omission of the 2nd clause, which gave a title to vote to joint-occupiers rated at 8*l.* each; but after some discussion, upon a division the clause was retained by 144 against 104. Clause 3, creating a freehold county franchise of the rated value of 5*l.*, was opposed by Mr. Reynolds, as a dangerous innovation, opening the door to fictitious voters, since neither occupancy nor payment of rates is required. Sir Frederick Thesiger followed up the objection, and in a long speech supported an amendment by which he proposed to secure that the 5*l.* value should be net value above all rates and charges. The amendment was rejected, by 106 to 30.—Clause 6, creating a borough franchise for 8*l.* occupants, was criticised by a number of Irish members, as too high in value; Lord Castlereagh, Mr. Monsell, and Mr. M'Cullagh joining in the representations that an 8*l.* franchise is higher for Ireland than a 10*l.* one for England; and urging reconsideration of the matter in favour of a 5*l.* franchise.—Lord John Russell resisted all importunities; stating, that if the proposal of 5*l.* were adopted there would be little chance of the bill passing this session. A 5*l.* amendment was negatived, by 142 to 90.

On Tuesday, the 5th, Mr. Slaney moved for a committee to consider on the plans which might be devised for *the Social Improvement of the Labouring Classes*. Concerning the distressed condition of those classes, the honourable member entered into many details. He showed, by the returns of mortality, pauperism, and criminality, how wide and excessive was the destitution under which they were now suffering. The causes of this deplorable state of things ought to be discovered, and the remedies pointed out. In an economical point of view, the question was most important. Want and its consequences, in the shape of hospitals, gaols, workhouses, transportation, and all their accessories, amounted altogether, for England alone, to an aggregate of twenty-seven millions, and for the whole of the United Kingdom could not be less than forty millions annually. All the remedial measures, for improving the education, protecting the health, and increasing the employment of the poorer classes, had originated with private members, and had neither received due attention from the government, nor attracted its fitting share of interest in parliament. He concluded with denouncing the *laissez-faire* system of legislation.—The motion was directly opposed by Mr. Trelawney, as a proposition to do for the working-classes what they ought to do for themselves; by Mr. Campbell, as an attempt to constitute an unpaid commission for doing what a paid commission would do better; and by Mr. Stanford, on the ground that it is unnecessary—if gentlemen would voluntarily devote themselves to the inquiry during the recess, their labours could not fail of being advantageous to the government. Sir George Grey bore witness to Mr. Slaney's devotion to the subject, and his desire to benefit the working-classes; but he expressed doubts as to the possibility of working a commission of four or five. The only effect of such a plan would be to overwhelm parliament with blue books, full of matters on which there is already ample information. When any proposition to promote the welfare of the working-classes is clearly and distinctly recognised, there is no necessity for any committee to carry it out.—Mr. Hume concurred in Sir George Grey's doubts; and Mr. Slaney withdrew his motion.

The adjourned debate on the second reading of the *Marriages Bill* was resumed on the 6th. Mr. Hope opposed the bill, on the ground that it would be but one step, because the legislature, if it passed the present measure, would be compelled to legalise all marriages which had been contracted in violation of the present law. He stated that 280 clergymen in various parts of the country have returned information that they know of 269 marriages within the prohibited degrees. Of these cases, 178 were marriages of the deceased wife's sister: the remaining 91 cases were marriages of persons stand-

ing in the relations following—marriages with a brother's widow, 41; own aunt, 6; own niece, 19; wife's daughter, 6; own half-sister, 1; father's wife, 1; brother's wife's daughter, 1; son's wife, 2; uncle's wife, 3; wife's niece, 11. The marriages with the wife's sister were "almost without one exception" in the upper and middle ranks of life; and the other marriages were mostly in those ranks. In one of the marriages with an uncle's wife, the parties were a clergyman and a peeress. The cases of marriage with the aunt and the niece were those of tradesmen, yeomen, and farmers, generally men of substance. A lieutenant-general in the army married a lady, and then her aunt; subsequently a third lady, and then the third lady's niece. It was visible from these cases that the grievance was not one that pressed especially on the poor.—The bill was supported by Mr. S. Herbert, Mr. Cockburn, Mr. Cobden, and Mr. Milnes; and opposed by Mr. Roebuck, Lord Mahon, Mr. Sheil, Mr. Goulburn, and others. The second reading was carried by 182 to 130.

On Thursday, the 7th, Mr. Poulett SCROPE moved for a special commission to inquire into the state of the *Kilrush Union*. He gave the following description of its present condition:—The extent of the Kilrush Union is about 150,000 acres; its population in 1841 was 80,000, and its rental in 1845 was about 60,000*l*. From the inordinate rents, the famine threw the entire population on the relief works: 110,000*l*.—double the rental—was expended on these works in 1846-7, and in August 1847, 133,000*l*. of public money had been expended: but from favouritism and other abuses the poor were still left to starve. The Poor-law Amendment Act threw the Union on its own resources; a rate was not struck till nearly two-thirds of the population had perished, or been removed by evictions; and, being chiefly due from the guardians themselves, the rates were allowed to fall in total arrear. The Union became bankrupt; out-door relief was stopped, and the in-door paupers were left starved and unclothed. The mortality from disease became enormous, and verdicts of death by starvation numerous. In three weeks relief was recommenced, and 12,500 persons received aid: it was discontinued again; and then again it was renewed, to be continued to the present time. The deaths from insufficient food were 21 in November, in December 71, in January 140: poor wretches travelled twenty miles for relief, stood all day at the door, and had to go home at night with their cases even unheard. Who (Mr. Scrope asked) is responsible for this frightful state of things?—the guardians, who accuse the Poor-law Commissioners? the commissioners, who throw the responsibility on the government? or the government itself? In England, the administrators of the Poor-law have been declared responsible for refusing relief. If the rates were not sufficient in Kilrush, is that an excuse for government's abandoning its declaration that no poor person could be allowed to starve? They might have lent the money to the guardians; or have undertaken the duties of the guardians, and themselves distributed the relief. From a commission the house would receive suggestions tending to save vast numbers from the grave yawning before them.—Sir William SOMERVILLE defended the government for simply administering the law as they found it; and opposed the motion, as being likely to furnish no other information than that which is already quite available to the house; and as being likly to excite hopes which never could be realised, and to prevent self-reliance and independent exertion. He added that the Kilrush guardians were now exerting themselves with satisfactory effect; that their proceedings should be watched, and if they failed in their duty the government would be prepared to act on their own responsibility.—Mr. MONSELL suggested that this should be treated as an exceptional case, by superseding the ordinary operation of the law, and appointing some fit person with full powers to reorganise the affairs of the Union.—Lord John RUSSELL affirmed that such a measure would be impracticable and mischievous, and objected to making Kilrush a special object of special inquiry and assistance, as setting a bad example to other distressed districts. Eventually the motion was negatived by 76 to 63.—Mr. H. BERKELEY moved for leave to bring in a bill for the introduction of *The Ballot*. A debate of some length ensued, and the motion was negatived by 176 against 121.

On Friday the 8th, Mr. COBDEN moved a resolution on the subject of the *Public Expenditure*, in the following terms:—That the net expenditure of the government for the year 1835, amounted to 44,422,000*l*.; that the net expenditure for the year ending the 5th day of January, 1850, amounted to 50,853,000*l*.; the increase of upwards of 6,000,000, having been caused principally by successive augmentations of our warlike establishments, and outlays for defensive armaments; that no foreign danger, or necessary cost of the civil government, or indispensable disbursements for the services in our dependencies abroad, warranted the continuance of this increase of expenditure; that the taxes required to meet the present expenditure impeded the operations of agriculture and manufactures, and diminished the funds for the employment of labour in all branches of productive industry, thereby tending to produce pauperism and crime, and adding to the local and general burdens of the people; that to diminish these evils it was expedient that the house should take steps to reduce the annual expenditure, with all practicable speed, to an amount not exceeding the sum which within the last fifteen years has been proved to be sufficient for the maintenance of the security, honour, and dignity of the nation. In support of his motion, he contended that, though in every branch of our national expenditure there was great waste, ostentation, and jobbing, he did not object to her Majesty's income, and he held in high estimation her domestic virtues; but he considered that many of the court offices ought to be abolished—that of the Master of the Buckhounds, for instance, whose salary should pay the Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench. He compared our diplomatic expenditure with that of America, and protested against the payment of 10,000*l*. per annum to our ambassador at Paris, while the representative of the United States had but 2,000*l*.; and he treated our judicial expenditure in a similar manner, showing that while the supreme judge at Washington, the head of American jurisprudence, had but 1,200*l*. a-year, a judge in impoverished Ireland had 8,000*l*. He deprecated the expense of the new houses of parliament, and the entire system of parliamentary business, printing, and management, as grossly extravagant; and he then went into every denomination of our armaments all over the world; he declared his belief, that although the importunities of the professions, which had already interrupted the house with a debate upon the brevet, were very urgent with ministers, they would be willing to reduce the expenditure of the country if they were strongly supported by the house.—Mr. LABOUCHERE, in reply, maintained that the apparent increase of 6,000,000*l*. had had not been caused by a real augmentation. In the naval and military expenditure, the apparent increase, rather more than 4,000,000*l*., was owing to such causes as the accumulated excess of expenditure left from previous years, the transfer of the Packet service formerly paid out of the Post-office revenue, accidental demands, like the payment of head-money for capture of pirates, construction of great permanent works, dockyards, &c., involving a payment once for all, with other causes as little coming under a true comparison. Under the civil head, the apparent increase of 2,478,000*l*., was caused by charges forced upon government by the house, under the pressure of demands from constituencies,—such as harbours of refuge, payments in aid of county-rates, &c.; charges for unforeseen calamities, among which might be reckoned the burning of the old houses of parliament and the building of the new; charges transferred from other accounts, such as official franking, quondam fees replaced by fixed payment, &c. Mr. Labouchere contended that many of these payments, such as those for the improvement of Ireland, are dictated by a wise and profitable economy.—Mr. Cobden was chiefly supported by Mr. Milner GIBSON; Mr. Labouchere, by Lord John RUSSELL. The other speakers were—for Mr. Cobden's motion, Mr. SPOONER and Mr. HUME; against it, Mr. HERRIES and Mr. HENLEY. Colonel SIBTHORP declared that he trusted neither party, but should take up his hat and walk out of the house; which he did amidst laughter and cheers from all sides. Mr. Cobden's resolution was negatived by 272 to 89.

On Monday the 11th, in committee on the *Army Estimates*, Mr. F. MAULE moved for a vote of 99,128 men for the land service of the year.—Mr. HUME moved, as an amendment, that the vote this year should be for 89,000 men, to be reduced next year to 80,000, there being no reason why we should not revert to that number, which was sufficient up to 1837. After some debate, this amendment was negatived by 223 against 50. The committee then proceeded to the *Navy Estimates*, and, on the first vote of 39,000 men for the sea-service, Mr. HUME protested against its extravagance, and moved that the number should be reduced to 31,469. The amendment was negatived by 117 against 19.

On Tuesday, the 12th, Mr. H. DRUMMOND proposed a resolution enforcing the necessity of *Reducing the National Expenditure*, on the ground that the present weight of taxation depresses all classes, and especially the labourer, by diminishing the fund at liberty for the employment of reproductive labour. After forcibly describing the distresses that weighed upon the labouring classes, he referred to the fiscal burdens by which those distresses were aggravated. It was fair that free trade, if introduced into our system, should be made impartial and complete. The agriculturist should be allowed to do what he liked with his land. He ought not to be prohibited from growing tobacco, nor find himself oppressed with duties whenever he wished to gather hops from his hedge, cultivate beetroot, turn his barley into malt, or manufacture clay into bricks for his cottage. To remit all these taxes it would be necessary to reduce and re-distribute the burdens of taxation. The way to accomplish this object was to cut down all salaries, and shift the great weight of the taxes upon property instead of labour. Mr. CAYLEY seconded the motion, and a long debate ensued in which many members joined. Sir Robert PEEL said that he accepted the resolution, as designed unequivocally to imply nothing more than it expressed. He drew from its tenor an inference strongly in favour of the commercial policy of 1842, inasmuch as it simply demanded a further and more complete fulfilment of the principles then introduced. As a social question he agreed to test the results of the free-trade experiment by its effects upon the condition of the industrial classes. So far as the facts were now known, they showed that this test had satisfactorily stood. Even among the agriculturists, from whom the complaints were now so loud, he believed that a better share of employment, and a greater command of the comforts of life were enjoyed at present than before the recent changes. Turning to the financial question, the hon. baronet, as the author of the reduced estimates of 1835, and the expanded outlay in 1848, declared that both proceedings were justified by the condition of the country at the respective periods. He could not now vote for a general resolution to enforce retrenchment. Notwithstanding the hot and cold fits to which the House of Commons was subject, he preferred trusting the work of economy to the hands of a judicious government, rather than leave it to the votes of a vacillating assembly. In the necessity for retrenchment he concurred. Waiting the happy time when all nations would consent to put their armies upon a peace establishment, he believed that some risk of loss in case of hostilities ought to be incurred for the sake of alleviating burdens that would otherwise crush the energies of the country. Lord J. RUSSELL inquired how the reductions in expenditure suggested by the motion before the house were to be effected? After determining to keep faith with the public creditor, to continue the pensions, allowances, and half-pay, to which the country stood already pledged, and defray the charges for the army and navy sanctioned by the votes which had passed the house a few hours previously, only a small amount of expenditure remained open for economical measures. If a reduction of 10 per cent were effected, as had been proposed, on all the salaries of the cabinet ministers, the total saving would amount to 4000*l.* per annum. Commenting upon the duties specially recommended for remission by Mr. Drummond, Lord J. Russell stated that if the cultivation of tobacco were allowed, it would not be prosecuted with advantage, except under a protective duty of several hundred per cent. The malt duty was a question of revenue, and rendered necessary by the inheritance of debt transmitted from administrations who had prosecuted an European war. On this point Lord J. Russell drew a distinction between duties for revenue and taxes imposed for purposes of protection, and to favour particular classes of producers. The former, he contended, should not be abolished unless it was clearly proved the exchequer could afford it. Eventually Mr. Drummond's resolution was negatived by 190 against 156.

On the second reading, on the 13th, of the *County Rates and Expenditure Bill*, Sir J. PAKINGTON moved, as an amendment, for a select committee, to inquire into the present mode of levying and expending the county rate, with a view to ascertain whether any more satisfactory mode can be adopted of levying the rates, and of giving the ratepayers more effectual control over their expenditure. This amendment, being opposed by several members, was withdrawn; the bill was read a second time, and ordered to be referred to a select committee.

The *Public Libraries and Museums Bill* was read a second time, after a short discussion, by a majority of 118 to 101. It was supported by Mr. Ewart (by whom it was brought in), Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Hume, Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Bright, and others. Its leading opponents were Mr. Spooner, Mr. R. Palmer, Sir R. Inglis, and Mr. P. Howard.

On Monday the 14th, Lord ASHLEY moved for leave to introduce a bill to declare the intention of the legislature with regard to the *Factories Act*. He had little or no doubt that it was the intention of the legislature that the labour of all young persons employed in factories should be continuous from the time it commenced, and should not be taken in parts and in succession, thereby extending the time over the full fifteen hours in every day. Mr. Baron Parke, in giving his judgment, showed clearly enough, that the opinion of the court was, that it was the intention of the legislature that relays should be prohibited. The noble lord, in a speech of much eloquence and length, detailed the evil results of the relay system, and illustrated the improvement already caused by the act, reading a variety of testimonies from clergymen and others to that effect.—Sir G. GREY said he would certainly offer no opposition to the introduction of the bill; he would only throw out this suggestion to his noble friend, that he did not think that his object would be attained, unless he made such an alteration in the definition of "night" as would reduce its range from fifteen hours to twelve: that he thought was the right principle, and one on which his noble friend might safely proceed. He did not therefore wish, in consenting to the introduction of the bill, to be in any way bound to the specific remedy which Lord Ashley wished to adopt.—Mr. BANKES, Mr. F. O'CONNOR, and Sir R. INGLIS supported the bill.—Mr. Milner GIBSON would not oppose its introduction, but would reserve any opposition he had to make, for the second reading of the bill.—Mr. BRIGHT attributed the improvement that had taken place, not to the Ten Hours' Bill, but to free trade. After the last two years he thought a good feeling on the whole apparent; but exasperation to some extent still existed, and he believed it would continue while this bill was pressed in its present shape; he therefore advised the noble lord, who represented a large number of persons out of doors on this subject, and who were willing to listen to the suggestions of the manufacturers, to consider whether some course might not be adopted to meet the views of all parties. If the noble lord did this, and if the house came to a calm view of the subject, he hoped they might settle for ever a question which had done more to excite heartburnings and bitter feelings between the employers and the employed, than all other things which had occurred.—The debate was continued by Mr. AGLIONBY and Lord J. MANNERS, who declared that there should be no compromise, and Mr. W. J. FOX, who thought the scheme already in existence the best that could be proposed.—Sir J. GRAHAM said with respect to what occurred in 1844, his object in framing the bill as he had introduced it, was absolutely to prohibit the relay system in any form whatsoever. That certainly had been his intention. His own opinions remained unchanged.—Lord Ashley in reply said that his intention had been to move for leave to bring in a bill to

declare the interpretation of the inspectors, and the opinion of the law officers of the crown that the hours of the work of young persons be limited to ten; that they should be continuous hours of labour, and should count from the time when any child began to work. That was the sum and substance of the whole, and from that principle he would not deviate to the right or to the left.—After a few words from Mr. BROWN, leave was given to bring in the bill.

The second reading of the *Highways Bill* was carried by a majority of 144 to 55, after a discussion in which many members for the agricultural districts took part.

On the motion for the second reading of the *Chief Justices' Salaries Bill*.—Mr. MULLINGS gave notice of his intention to move in committee for reducing the retiring pensions of the Chief Justice. He did so from motives of economy which touched himself nearly, for he had invested all the earnings of a life of hard work, in an estate which suffered under the distress of the times, and which could be preserved to him only by a reduction of the public burdens.—Mr. SPOONER supported the principle of reduction, reminding the house that Lord Denman had been Chief Justice for seventeen years, at a salary of 8,000*l.*, and it was very certain that if that salary was justifiable at the time it began, it was vastly too much now, considering the relative value of money. — Sir George GREY said that in committee Government would be ready to justify the proposed mode of dealing with the salaries in question.—Colonel SIBTHORP suggested that the bill should be postponed till they had the Chancellor of the Exchequer's budget before them. He believed the Treasury bench had all got too much; they got too fat, and were too well fed, and that was why they resisted proper reductions. The second reading was then agreed to without further opposition.

The *Budget* was brought forward on Friday, the 15th, by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, who introduced his proposed measures by a long financial statement. Referring to the budget of last year, he stated that he had then calculated the probable income of the year at 52,262,000*l.* The results of the first nine months of that year would have justified him in placing the receipts at 52,874,000*l.*; but as there had been a falling off on the last quarter, he would estimate them at 52,785,500*l.* The estimated expenditure for that year was 52,157,696*l.*, and the actual expenditure (up to January 5) was at the rate of 50,853,622*l.*, but would, in point of fact, be only 50,533,651*l.* Last year he anticipated a surplus of 104,000*l.*; but the actual surplus over the estimated expenditure amounted to 627,000*l.*, and the income actually received exceeded the estimated amount by 523,500*l.* On the other hand, the expenditure had been less than he had estimated it by 1,625,000*l.* Consequently the surplus of income over probable expenditure might be stated at two millions and a quarter. The income for the next year he calculated at 52,285,000*l.*, and the expenditure he estimated at 50,613,582*l.*; and to this he would add certain outlays in reference to the Merchant Seamen's Bill, the new houses of parliament, a building for the records of the realm, the Arctic expedition, and some other smaller sums, which would leave a surplus for the ensuing year of about 1,500,000*l.* He was not prepared to say that he would devote the whole of the surplus to the purpose of the diminution of the debt. He proposed, for the purpose of relieving the landed interest, to make a considerable reduction on stamp duties upon the transfer of real property up to 1,000*l.*, and to equalise the duties after a large amount: he proposed to adopt the same principle with regard to the stamp duties on mortgages, and also to reduce the stamp duty upon leases. He proposed that when the stamp duty, now payable upon a lease was 1*l.*, it should be reduced to 2*s.* 6*d.*, and so on in proportion. He also proposed, for the purpose of improving the dwellings of the labouring classes, to accede to a total repeal of the duty on bricks. (This announcement created a great sensation in the house, and was received with loud cheers.) The amount of losses he anticipated in the revenue were, upon stamps a little under 300,000*l.*, upon bricks to a little over 450,000*l.*, making a total of 750,000*l.*, being half the surplus. The other half he proposed to devote to the reduction of the debt. By the operation of the existing Sugar Act, the duties on certain classes of foreign and colonial sugars would be reduced from the 5th of July next, affording a relief to the consumer, taking the average of the country, to the extent of 350,000*l.* Therefore, the actual relief to the people of this country would be about 1,100,000*l.* He also had another important proposal, viz., that parliament should do what was done in 1846, make advances for drainage and for other land improvements—the sum of 2,000,000*l.* to be advanced to England and Scotland, and 1,000,000*l.* to Ireland. He proposed to retain in his hands the sum of 750,000*l.*, either for the reduction of the debt, or to meet any contingency that may occur throughout the year. But he would apply also out of it, although not in the usual way, a sum of 250,000*l.* in the reduction of the debt. There had existed, since the union with Scotland, a charge on the revenue in the shape of an annuity of 10,000*l.*, called the equivalent rent; it is provided by the act which established that fund, that it might be redeemed at any period by the payment of 250,000*l.* A portion of the revenue of the year would be applied in the extinction of this 10,000*l.* a-year. There would remain beyond this a surplus of 500,000*l.*, and he hoped that the house would support him in his intention of retaining that sum, because he did not think it would be safe to go on in any circumstances with a surplus of less than that amount.

On Monday, the 18th, Mr. HUME desired to know what notice the government intended to take of *the protest of the Rev. G. A. Denison*, impugning the judgment of her Majesty in council in the case of "Gorham *v.* the Bishop of Exeter," and denying the supremacy of the crown as head of the established church.—Lord J. RUSSELL read a statement by Mr. Denison of his real sentiments upon the subject, and observed that he thought the rev. gentleman was mistaken; that the judicial committee of the privy council had acted entirely within the scope of their jurisdictions, and, moreover, that he believed their decision in the matter had given great satisfaction. With respect to the intentions of the government, he said, though it might appear hereafter necessary to adopt some measure, he should be most reluctant to take any step against any men entertaining conscientious opinions upon this question, and which might tend to disturb still further the harmony of the church.

The subject of the *African Blockade for the prevention of the Slave Trade* was brought forward, on the 19th, by Mr. HUTT, who moved an address praying her Majesty to direct negotiations to be commenced for the purpose of releasing the country from all treaties which at present engage us to maintain a squadron on the coast of Africa. Two successive committees of the legislature had recognised th impolicy of endeavouring to suppress the slave trade by force of arms. The blockade of the coast of Africa, undertaken thirty-one years ago, had resulted in an aggravation of all the atrocities that characterised the traffic in slaves; while the numbers increased from 90,000 in 1815 to 105,000 in 1819. Since that time England had extended her efforts at suppression, by enlarging her squadron, by employing the new arm of steam-vessels, and by contracting more stringent treaties on the subject with Spain, Portugal, and France, but with no corresponding success. In corroboration of these statements Mr. Hutt referred to the opinions expressed by the Duke of Wellington at the Congress of Verona, and by Lord J. Russell as recently as 1839. The temporary diminution in the slave trade in 1840 was attributable not to the vigilance of Captains Denman and Mansel, but to a mercantile depression and some sincere efforts made in Cuba and Brazil about that time to abolish the traffic. Subsequently the numbers had again extended to 83,000, in 1848, and the commerce was at present flourishing abundantly. The danger of capture by the British cruisers added exorbitantly to the sufferings of the slaves both during the "middle passage" and while waiting purchasers in their African captivity. On this point Mr. Hutt entered into many striking details, which he summed up with the conclusion that the squadron, though costing so heavy a price in money and human life, was utterly unavailing in reducing the amount of the traffic, while it frightfully enhanced its

horrors. Every contrivance of governments, from the Emperor Napoleon to our own Chancellors of the Exchequer, had failed to put down contraband traffic at home; and the attempt was yet more Quixotical upon the vast and distant coast of Africa. The endeavour had already cost us twenty-five millions, was maintained at a cost of 700,000*l.* or 800,000*l.* per annum, and had monopolised the services of fully one-fourth the whole British navy afloat. But the system was worse than merely expensive—it was fatal, cruel, and anomalous, obliging us to use methods equally violent, inadequate, and involving a perpetual risk of war with other nations, who did not sympathise with our object, while they resented our assumption of a right to interfere with their commerce. —Mr. BAILLIE, in seconding the motion, ridiculed the ludicrous boasting, year after year, of making treaties with the Republic of the equator, the Shah of Persia, and the African king, "Billy."—Mr. LABOUCHERE opposed the motion, and said that if the house agreed to it the people of England would call them to a strict and well-merited account for having entirely misinterpreted their feelings and wishes. Sir Charles Hotham had been called as a witness for the motion: yet no person had more strongly insisted on the "degradation to this country" which must follow the withdrawal of our squadron; and in a sense worthy of his high personal character, he had also declared, that "in a case of that description honour and interest would, to a certain extent, go together." He expressed a belief that if the squadron were withdrawn, smaller slave-vessels would be used, and the sufferings of the slave increased. No doubt, the question of expenditure was not to be overlooked, though the people of this country would not, from that motive alone, consent to relinquish their most cherished hopes; but when it was said 700,000*l.* a year will be saved, was it meant that we should not leave a ship in those seas for the protection of the great, thriving, and increasing legitimate trade, on the fostering of which is based our best reliance for the ultimate success of our great undertaking? It could be demonstrated that if the squadron is withdrawn the traffic will spring up into full operation, replunge Africa into scenes of blood and horror, and at once extinguish every spark of civilisation and improvement, which he trusted might by and by grow into a flame to warm and enlighten that country. The treaties with the native chiefs had been alluded to with levity. There was at this moment a fairer prospect of success from that source than for many years. The Republic of Liberia, under the intelligent and able guidance of President Roberts, was not only establishing its own peaceful relation through treaties with neighbouring tribes, but extending its territories and replacing the slave-trade by the occupations of commerce and industry. A commissioner would this very month go out to negotiate relations with the Court of Dahomey. Our purchase of the Danish forts in Africa would much control the slave traffic in the Bight of Benin. It might be anticipated that the whole coast from the North down to Whydah will in a short time be rescued from the horrors of the slave-trade.—Mr. LABOUCHERE dwelt on the effect of opening the slave-market to Cuba and Brazil on our own sugar-producing colonies. It would be impossible to choose a more unfortunate moment for enabling their foreign rivals to obtain an unlimited supply of labour than the present, when the great complaint of the colonists is that they find it exceedingly difficult to obtain labour at a reasonable cost. He took it for granted that the house did not mean to revive the slave-trade in favour of the colonies themselves, either ostensibly or under any guise or pretence of immigration. At present, our colonies were in the course of a revival. In Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad, and Antigua, the produce of 1847-8 had been a considerable increase of that of 1845-6: there really seemed a well-founded hope that they would recover from their distress if no such measure as this interrupt them: but if the slave-trade is thrown unchecked into the hands of their foreign rivals, the cultivation of sugar will be rendered impossible in our colonies. He did not ask the house to vote that for an indefinite period the squadron should be maintained: if any gentlemen were sanguine enough to believe that the slave-trade could be suppressed by any other means, they should suggest them. —Mr. GLADSTONE entered into a minute detail of the existing states of the colonies, and of our relationship with foreign countries, deducing from the various statements the conclusion that our repressive policy had turned out unsuccessful in every point of view, and had moreover tended to retard the adoption of a more humane system among the Brazilian and other slaveholding nations.—Lord John RUSSELL characterised the motion as a summons to reverse, at the opening of a new half century, the system which had won so many triumphs for humanity during the past fifty years. France and the United States had observed the treaties which they had signed in relation to this traffic with perfect fidelity; and if we now withdrew we should render ourselves utterly powerless to restrain the sailing of slave-ships over every sea. He wished not to pledge the legislature to a total abstinence of interference in the management or constitution of the blockading squadron, but only to the principle that the marine force should not be withdrawn without some sufficient substitute in the way of repression. Against the alleged increase in the sufferings of the negroes during the middle passage caused by the presence of our cruisers, he placed the probability that the slaves would be far worse treated—would be "used up" faster in Brazil or Cuba, if their value as property were diminished. After an elaborate detail of other evils that would spring from the adoption of the resolution—the loss of honour to England and of civilisation to Africa; the possible consequences of swamping Brazil with a multitudinous importation of negroes; the resulting increase in the mass of human misery; the subsequent competition against our own colonists as cultivators of sugar,—Lord J. Russell repeating his declaration, that great progress was in reality being made by our prosecution of the blockade, that European opinion was far more enlightened upon the subject than in earlier years, and that a strong remonstrance by England, France, and America, would now have great weight with Spain and Brazil, he remarked severely upon the conduct of Mr. Hutt's committee. As a last answer to the question, what, under all circumstances, will you now do for the suppression of the trade, he would say "I will not despond." Characterising the course proposed by the nation as "dastardly," he concluded with the expression of his belief that if England abandoned the holy career in which she was engaged, she could no longer expect the blessing of heaven. The other speakers were: for the motion, Lord H. VANE, Mr. G. BERKELEY, and Lord R. GROSVENOR; against it, Mr. CARDWELL, Sir George PECHELL, and Sir R. INGLIS. The motion was negatived by 232 to 154.

On Monday, the 20th, on the commital of the *Larceny Summary Jurisdiction Bill*, Mr. LAW moved a resolution for limiting the provisions of the bill as regarded punishment to offenders, of age not exceeding sixteen years, but extending to offenders of every age the summary power of the justices to liberate upon bail, provided the amount of larceny should not exceed one shilling. A prolonged discussion ensued, turning chiefly on the question how far it was prudent to remove criminal charges out of the jurisdiction of juries. The house then divided; for the amendment 124, against it 54.

The *Australian Government Bill* was considered in committee on the 22nd. The second clause gave rise to a discussion as to the policy of giving to the crown the nomination of one-third of the members of the legislative council; and, at length, Mr. MOWATT moved the omission of such portion of the clause as left to her Majesty the nomination of one-third part of the number of the members of the legislative council.—The amendment was negatived by 165 to 77.—Mr. WALPOLE then moved the omission of the second clause, and to substitute instead thereof the following proviso: "And be it enacted that there shall be within each of the said colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, a legislative council and representative assembly." After a discussion, consisting chiefly of a repetition of arguments previously used, Mr. Walpole's amendment was negatived by 198 to 147.

On Monday, the 25th, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that he had come to the conclusion that the *Repeal of the Brick Duty* should take effect

immediately, and that a reduction of 50 per cent. on the duty should be allowed on bricks already made.

Lord J. RUSSELL stated that Lord Seymour, who had accepted the office of Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests, was to have the usual salary for his office of 2,000*l.* a year; but he would take that opportunity of stating that, after Easter, he intended to move for a committee to inquire into all *Judicial and Diplomatic Salaries*, as well as those of ministers themselves. This announcement was received with loud cheers.

Lord J. RUSSELL stated that a bill would be brought in, during the present session, for *settling Marlborough House upon the Prince of Wales*, and that her Majesty had signified her consent to allow that building, for some few years to come, being devoted to the reception of the Vernon Gallery of Paintings, and other works of similar character, and thrown open to the public as an exhibition of art.

Mr. TRELAWNY moved for a select committee to inquire into the extent of the public interest, present or prospective, in the property appertaining to the *Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster*. He supported his motion by ample details of unthrift and extravagance in the past management of these and other appanages to the public revenue. To the argument that the duchies in question were the private property of the royal family, he replied by showing that the parliament, in the days of George III., had purchased the right of interference with the estate of the princedom of Wales, by repeatedly paying the enormous debts of the then heir apparent. Other conditions of the administration of those properties also gave them a quasi-national character.—The SOLICITOR-GENERAL contended that the legislature had no more right to interfere with these than with any other private properties. He showed, nevertheless, that many improvements in the management of both duchies, tending to increase the net income by many thousands a year, had been effected since the accession of her present Majesty. The charge of oppression towards the tenants was a loose accusation, which had not been fairly substantiated by evidence. No case was, in fact, made out to justify the interposition of the house by the appointment of a select committee.—Sir R. PEEL doubted whether it could be proved that the jurisdiction of the House of Commons was not wide enough to warrant its interference with the management of the duchies. He was, however, convinced, by a review of the recent administration of their affairs, that it would be most prudent to allow matters to remain as they were. It was altogether irrational for the legislature to adopt violent measures in consequence of hypothetical charges.—After some further discussion the resolution was negatived without a division.

On Monday, the 26th, Lord DUNCAN renewed a previous motion respecting the *Encroachments on the Green Park*, caused by the new buildings going on at Lord Ellesmere's mansion, and wished to know who had permitted the encroachments.—Mr. BANKES thought the public were much indebted to Lord Ellesmere for the splendid palace he was raising there, and pointed to the former disgraceful state of this portion of the park, contrasting it with the condition into which it was now brought by so many mansions being erected in its neighbourhood.—Mr. LUSHINGTON and Sir B. HALL complained that their constituents felt aggrieved by these encroachments.—Lord J. RUSSELL admitted that if the strict letter of the law were to be enforced, no doubt the wall must be pulled down; but, in that case, he doubted whether the public would not be the losers rather than gainers.—Mr. HUME, while he gave every credit to the Earl of Ellesmere for his liberality, in throwing open his collection of pictures to the public, contended that the encroachments were illegal, and that the Attorney-General ought to be called upon to take measures for their removal.—Mr. HAYTER and Mr. S. WORTLEY denied that this was any encroachment. It was a question regarding a breach of covenant; and though the public had a right to have the covenant enforced, yet they were sure the enforcement would be to the injury rather than the advantage of the public.—After a few words from Lord DUNCAN in reply, his motion was agreed to.

Mr. Hume moved for the production of papers connected with the *Receipts and Expenditure of the Royal Academy*, and complained of the illiberality of that body in refusing to open their exhibition to the public after a certain time, notwithstanding the privileges they enjoyed of being allowed apartments in the National Gallery, free of rent, in which to exhibit their pictures. And now it appeared a sum of money was to be voted to them for the erection of a new building; but he for one would vote against any sum being granted till the house had before it an account of their receipts and expenditure.—Lord J. RUSSELL regretted the decision the Royal Academy had come to in refusing to allow the public admission to their exhibition; but it was to be remembered that the pictures were their own property, and it was for them, therefore, to decide the question. With regard to the grant of money, it was open to the hon. member to object to the vote when it came before the house; but he brought it forward because George III. having granted the Academy apartments for their pictures, he thought the government was bound to continue that privilege.—The motion was negatived by 47 to 49.

The house adjourned till Monday, the 8th of April.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—March 1. Umpire's Appointment Bill withdrawn.

4th.—Railway Audit Bill read a first time.—Party Processions (Ireland) Bill read a second time.—Ecclesiastical Commission Bill read a third time.

7th.—Sunday Trading Bill read a second time and referred to a select committee.

8th.—Party Processions (Ireland) Bill read a third time and passed.

11th.—Railway Audit Bill, read a second time.

14th.—Convict Prisons Bill read a second time.

15th.—Statements respecting the Greek Question.

25th.—Master's jurisdiction in Chancery Bill read a first time; adjourned to April 11.

House of Commons.—February 28.—Parliamentary Reform; Mr. Hume's motion negatived.—Leave to bring in Enfranchisement of Copyholds Bill.

March 1.—Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill considered in Committee.—Regulation of Deeds (Ireland) Bill read a second time.

4.—Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill considered in committee.

5.—Social Condition of the Working Classes, Mr. Slaney's motion withdrawn.—Select Committee on Postal Communication agreed to.—Mr. Mitchell's motion respecting Duties on Wood used in Shipping carried.

6.—Affirmation Bill read a second time.—Marriages Bill read a second time.

7th.—Ecclesiastical Commission Bill read a first time.—Kilrush Union, Mr. Scrope's motion negatived.—Voteby Ballot, Mr. H. Berkeley's motion negatived.

8.—Supply, Mr. Cobden's resolution debated and negatived.—Real Property Conveyance Bill read a second time.

11.—Committee on Army and Navy Estimates.

12.—Mr. H. Drummond's motion for reducing National Expenditure negatived.

13.—County Rates and Expenditure Bill read a second time—Public Libraries and Museums Bill read a second time.—Leave given Lord Ashley to bring in bill to amend the Factories Act.—Highways Bill read a second time.

15.—The Budget.

18.—Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill in committee.—Brick Duties Repeal Bill read a first time.

19.—African Squadron, Mr. Hutt's motion negatived.

20.—Small Tenements Rating Bill, Summary and Larceny Jurisdiction Bill, in committee.—County Rates Expenditure Bill, select committee re-mended.

21.—Mutiny Bill read a third time and passed.—Succession to Real Property, Mr. Locke King's motion negatived.—Pirates Head Money Repeal Bill passed through Committee.

22.—Australian Colonies Bill, Process and Practice (Ireland) Bill, and Factories Bill, considered in committee.—Stamp Duties Bill read a first time.

25.—Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster, Mr. Trelawney's motion negatived.—Chief Justices' Salaries Bill in committee.—Brick Duties Bill in committee.

26.—Adjourned to 8th April.

THE election of Colonel Frederick Romilly for Canterbury, on the 4th, was unopposed; Mr. Vance, the protectionist candidate, having retired from the contest on the previous evening.

A very large meeting was held on the 7th, in the

great room of Exeter Hall, to welcome Dr. Achilli on his escape to this country from the dungeons of the Inquisition at Rome. Mr. Bevan presided; the Rev. Baptist Noel, and many eminent dissenting ministers, were on the platform. Dr. Achilli was greeted with exceeding warmth: he spoke in Italian, and was cheered often and very generally. The crowd attracted was so great that the immense hall was not large enough, and several subsidiary meetings were held in the small rooms; Dr. Achilli appearing at each in turn.

The province of Ulster is described as being in a state of alarming commotion on the agitated questions of *Tenure and Rent*. Incendiary fires are lighted in every direction, and the tenantry, hitherto esteemed most respectable and attached, very generally refuse to take any steps towards checking the outrage. They hold meetings and formally "deprecate incendiarism;" but complain that the refusal of justice and want of consideration on the part of their landlords have excited the general discontent, and unhappily led to excesses over which they possess no control, and for which they cannot be accountable. Lately, in public meeting, the tenants of the Marquis of Londonderry—a nobleman famed as an excellent landlord—refused to affix their signatures to a document offering a reward for the apprehension of the parties who burned down some farm-offices in the preceding week. It is stated that the tenant of the farm was compelled to emigrate to America, and was not allowed the full value of his improvements, worth 500*l.*; that a stranger was put into the farm on terms not customary on the estate; and that the remonstrances of the tenants on the breach of custom were unheeded. The tenantry passed a resolution that the crime "has arisen altogether from the conduct of our landlord the Marquis of Londonderry, who refused to accede to the prayers of our repeated memorials."

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

At the Guildhall, on the 12th February, Fanny Hainsworth, a young, innocent-looking girl, aged seventeen, was charged with *Stealing a Victorine*, the property of Mr. Moses Solomons, of No. 3, Little Britain. After hearing the evidence, the magistrate said there were so many contradictions between father and son, there was no foundation for the charge, and the prisoner was discharged. The solicitor, who appeared for the girl, now said that he intended charging the son, Joseph Solomons, with the crime of a rape. He was accordingly placed in front of the dock. Police Constable Webb said that when the girl was originally given in his charge she resisted going, and said, "This would never happen if it had not been for Master Joseph." He asked what Master Joseph had done, and she said he came to her bed-room at night and had taken improper liberties with her, and effected his purpose. She called out, and his sister, who slept in the next room, asked what was the matter, when Joseph replied that he was calling the servant up. He did not contradict the girl, but treated the whole affair in a light, off-handed manner. She spoke to him, and accused him of coming to her bed-room on Sunday night, and defied him to deny it, which he did not. She further added that he passed something over her eyes and nose, which took her senses away, and he then ruined her. Alderman: Until she charged the son with ruining her, was any charge of felony made against her?—Webb: None whatever. The girl also in the presence of Mrs. Solomons told me she had informed her of her son's conduct, and that Mrs. Solomons said, "Well, I suppose he did not kill you." A remand for further evidence was granted. When brought up again on the 20th, it was proved the girl had been taken out of the way. The magistrate, therefore, remanded the case until she was forthcoming, and increased the bail to two sureties of 100*l.*, and defendant 200*l.* On the 27th, new evidence was produced, and the girl corroborated her previous statements with some reluctance. The case was again remanded to the 2nd of March, when it appeared the culprit had left for the continent the night previous. The bail was estreated, and a warrant issued for his apprehension.

In the Bankruptcy Court, on the 2nd, Mr. Edward Thomas Delafield, late of the Covent Garden Opera, applied for his *Certificate*. On his behalf, Mr. Lewis strove hard for a "first-class" certificate; intimating that Mr. Delafield has prospects among his wealthy connexions, and that his intention is to put aside half of whatever property he may hereafter become possessed of, that the creditors may be paid ten shillings in the pound beyond what they have received. On behalf of the creditors, Mr. Lawrence assented to the application. Mr. Commissioner Fane applauded the arrangement for the further payment of ten shillings in the pound, but felt insuperable difficulties in the way of granting a first-class or even a second-class certificate. If such certificates (he observed) are awarded in any but meritorious or at least blameless cases, they will be degraded in the distinction they confer. Mr. Delafield had entered business with a very large capital—100,000*l.*; had squandered that capital in a very short time, and had incurred 33,000*l.* of debts, against which the present assets are but 3*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* It cannot be shown that he acted with prudence and a due regard to the interests of his creditors; or that he stopped payment at the proper time while there were still assets for distribution. He went on with a clearly losing concern, paying some creditors in full at the expense of those who now get nothing; and up to the very eve of his bankruptcy he was living in a style of extraordinary and very unbecoming splendour. A certificate of the third class was accordingly awarded.

At the Newcastle Assizes, on the 4th, an action for *breach of promise of marriage* was tried; Mr. James Nicholson, organ-builder of the town, plaintiff, and Mrs. Mary Turnbull, late Miss Parkin, of Etherby, with her husband, defendant. The plaintiff was a widower, thirty years of age, with children; and the defendant a spinster of twenty-two, who had inherited considerable property from her father, lately deceased. The evidence of the promise of marriage appeared in correspondence of a singularly unimpassioned character, wherein the young lady authorised the purchase of a waistcoat with studs, the ring and cake, and the licence. The plaintiff proved that he had been to some charges in carrying out these directions. At the last moment, Miss Parkin broke her promise, and suddenly married Mr. Turnbull, a former lover. The defence made by Mr. Sergeant Wilkins admitted the breach of promise, and aimed only at a mitigation of the damages: founded on insinuations that the match had been a money-hunting one, into which the defendant was drawn by importunity, and on the trivial character of the losses which the plaintiff had suffered. The verdict of the Jury was for the plaintiff, with a farthing damages.

Rees Hopkins, boatman, and Ambrose Davies, were indicted at Swansea, on the 5th, for a *burglary* in the house of William Jones at Llanwonno, near Cardiff, on the night of the 21th of December. The curious feature of this case was, that the prisoners had invited a lad to sleep with them in a certain hay-loft on the night of the burglary, with the view of securing his testimony to prove an alibi in case they were charged with the crime. This lad was the principal witness against them. It appeared that after the youth had fallen asleep, the two prisoners stealthily left the hay-loft on their burglarious expedition. On awaking, he found them gone, but their bundles had been left behind. In a short time they returned, and he (pretending to be still asleep) heard them conversing about the robbery. Other witnesses examined, proved that the prisoners had disposed of clothes and other articles stolen from prosecutor's house, at Cardiff and other places. Hopkins (against whom a previous conviction was proved) was sentenced to seven years' transportation; Davies to fifteen months' hard labour.

Edmund Henry Simmonds, late the relieving-officer of the Southampton Union, was indicted at the Winchester Assizes on the 6th, for the *Manslaughter* of Elizabeth Biggs, a pauper, by refusing shelter and food in her urgent need, whereby she died of cold and starvation. The facts appeared in our first number. In favour of the prisoner, it was proved—that he was a very humane man; that Briggs was unknown to him by her own name, and was not recognised as "Harris," under

which name she had before been relieved; that impostors had been numerous; that Biggs did not appear seriously ill to an unprofessional eye; and that the officer's duty, as to the discretion he might exercise, had not been clearly defined. Without waiting to deliberate, the jury found the prisoner "Not guilty," and assured him that he was honourably acquitted.

Mary Savill, a woman of thirty-one, was tried at the Chelmsford Assizes, on the 6th, for *Firing a Stack of Oats* at Great Chishall. Last year, the grand jury ignored the bill against the woman, and she was discharged; she thought this was the same as an aequittal, and she avowed her guilt: this led to her second arrest, and the present trial. She was convicted. Sentence, seven years' transportation. H. Hitchcock, a young fellow who had been before convicted of felony, was found guilty of *Firing a Farm* at Braintree, whereby a large amount of property was destroyed. The sentence was fourteen years' transportation; for which the impudent culprit thanked the judge.

W. J. R. Smith, formerly a clerk in the Admiralty, and Charles Niblett, were indicted at the New Court, on the 7th, for *Forging and Uttering Certain Papers*, whereby they obtained money from the Admiralty. This was the case where the government was defrauded by forged papers purporting to be signed by secretaries of colonies authorising the conveyance of distressed seamen to England, on which the Admiralty pay money for their subsistence during the voyage. Smith pleaded guilty to stealing a book the property of the Queen. The case was not proceeded with as regards Niblett, since it was apparent that he was only the servant of Smith; and the plea of the latter with respect to the larceny seems to have rendered the pressing of the indictment unnecessary. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

On the 7th, Elizabeth Higgins was tried for *Attempting to Murder her Three Children* by drowning them in the Regent's Canal. The distressing details of this case were recounted in our last number. It was elicited in cross-examination that the poor woman was sober and well-conducted; her children appeared to be clean and carefully kept. In his address to the jury for the defence, her counsel urged that their verdict must be "Insanity," or "Not Guilty." He thought they might well give the latter: in her desperation at the neglect and brutality of her husband, the woman had jumped into the water without any definite intention to destroy her children and herself. The judge, in summing-up, warned the jury against adopting such a view of their duty. A verdict was at once returned of "Not guilty, on the grounnd of the jury's belief that at the time the act was committed the prisoner was in a state of temporary insanity." Some doubt arose whether this verdict was tantamount to one of simply "Not guilty;" and the matter was reserved for the decision of the Criminal Court of Appeal, the woman to be detained in the meantime.

James Boag, a man respectably connected, and formerly in the Bank of England, was tried at Chelmsford on the 7th, for *altering the Register of a Marriage*, and a book kept at St. Runwald's, Colchester; a felonious offence. The alleged object was to gain an advantage in a lawsuit respecting 10,000*l.*, left by a man deceased, in which Boag was one of the parties concerned. The case was fully made out. The counsel for the defence urged that there was no motive for the act imputed: the register had been seen by numbers of persons before it was said to be altered, and the register itself was kept with much laxness. The prisoner was convicted, and the sentence deferred.

The decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the case of *Gorham* v. *the Bishop of Exeter* was delivered on the 8th, in presence of a crowded audience of distinguished persons; Lord Langdale read the written judgment of the court, and stated that Vice-Chancellor Knight Bruce was the only dissentient. It was to the effect "that the doctrine held by Mr. Gorham is not contrary or repugnant to the declared doctrine of the Church of England as by law established; and that Mr. Gorham ought not, by reason of the doctrine held by him, to have been refused admission to the vicarage of Brampford Speke:" therefore, that the sentence of the Arches Court of Canterbury ought to be reversed; and that it ought to be declared that the Lord Bishop of Exeter has not shown sufficient cause why he did not institute Mr. Gorham to the said vicarage; and finally, that the cause be remitted to the Arches Court, "to the end that right and justice may there be done."

At the Assizes at Swansea, on the 8th, Mr. Rhys, an engineer, obtained a verdict of 1500*l.* against Messrs. Hall, manufacturers of gunpowder and gun-cotton, for having invited him to witness an experiment with gun-cotton, and managing it so carelessly that *an Explosion took place* and he lost his sight. The damages were laid at 10,000*l.*

At the Lambeth Court on the 9th, O. I. Hairby, a surgeon, appeared on *an Affiliation Summons*. The prosecuting counsel stated that in all his professional experience he did not recollect one of a more dastardly or heartless description. In the year 1843, Rhoda Southgate, entered the service of the father of the defendant, a medical gentleman, carrying on his profession in Marlborough-place, Walworth-road, and remained there till about six months ago, when her pregnancy was discovered, and she was turned out of the house. For some time the defendant paid his addresses to her. Under the most solemn assurance of making her his wife, he succeeded in seducing her; the result was the birth of a female child. The poor girl, from her wages of 10*l.* a year, had managed to save 30*l.*, and every farthing of this the defendant borrowed, so that when turned out she became penniless, and being ashamed to return to her family, had it not been for the humanity of others, must have perished from want. The Magistrate—(to the defendant)—"Well, is it your intention to fulfil your promise to the young woman?" Defendant (in a drawling tone)—"No, Sir; you know circumstances make a great change in feelings and dispositions." "Yes, I suppose the change took place in yours when you succeeded in seducing this poor girl, and borrowing the whole of her money. What are you?" "I have been brought up to the medical profession, but I am, at present, a warehouseman in Wood-street. I don't deny that the child is mine, but the greater part of the money I gave back." This the young woman denied on her oath, and declared she had not a single penny of the 30*l.* returned. The magistrate said—"There can be no doubt that you robbed this poor woman of her virtue, her money (for I call it a robbery), and her honesty, in refusing to marry her. Your conduct has been most heartless, and I shall make an order for the highest amount allowed by Act of Parliament." The magistrate also expressed a hope that proceedings would be taken in the County Court for the payment of the borrowed money, and the solicitor replied that he should lose no time in doing so.

W. Smith, apprentice to Mr. Pope, tea-dealer, Finsbury-pavement, and John M'Nay, errand-lad, were charged at Guildhall, on the 10th, with *Absconding from their Master's Service*. A constable of the Detective Force had brought them up from Biggleswade, where they had been detained on suspicion of having committed some offence, as they were each armed with a pistol and a dirk, and had a greater supply of cash than might be expected from persons of their appearance. Mr. Pope accounted for the possession of the implements of death, by stating that the mind of his apprentice had been poisoned by reading novels of which robbers were the heroes, and he had no doubt from the purchases they had made that they had resolved to become villains of that class. He had run away for a few days on a former occasion, when he lurked about on the country roads; but upon voluntarily returning, and begging forgiveness, complainant received him again into his house. Mr. Pope said he did not mean to press any charge against the errand-boy, and as to the apprentice he was willing to receive him again if he would solemnly pledge himself to the magistrate that he would never offend again. On obstinately refusing to do this, he was committed to work on the cranks at Bridewell, for three months.

A melancholy *Suicide* has taken place at Woolwich. About six months ago, a publican residing there, in a respectable way of business, together with his son, a promising young man, about 24 years of age, were

charged with carting and removing several cart load of bricks belonging to the railway company, and depositing them on the premises of the father; and after an examination before the magistrate, they were sentenced, the father to undergo an imprisonment with hard labour for eighteen months, and the son to six months' and hard labour. The son's imprisonment expired on the 8th, whereupon he immediately returned to the inn kept by his father, and resumed his avocation of waiting upon the customers as usual, and whilst so doing on the 12th one of them incautiously made use of the expression, "How about the bricks!" which appeared to have such an effect upon the mind of the young man, that he immediately repaired to a shed at the back part of the building, and hung himself. He continued hanging, until his family, missing him, made a search, when he was found. He was immediately cut down, and medical assistance promptly procured, but life had been extinct for some time.

The Worship Street Court was crowded on the 13th by a large number of persons, amongst whom were many well dressed women, anxious to be present at the adjourned hearing of a summons against William Calcraft, the public executioner, issued by the parish officers of the Witham Union, in Essex, for *Refusing to Support his aged Mother*, an inmate of that workhouse. Not making his appearance at the hour appointed, the magistrates directed a warrant to be issued for the apprehension of the defendant, but he shortly after entered the court; and his mother, Sarah Calcraft, who was compelled by her infirmities to be seated during the examination, was then called, and stated that she was seventy-four years of age, and having become totally destitute, was constrained to throw herself upon the parish. She had previously addressed three letters to the defendant, requesting assistance, but had not received anything from him, and he had not even answered one of her communications, although in circumstances to support her, as in addition to the salary he received from the corporation, he carried on the trade of a boot and shoemaker.—The magistrate asked the defendant if he had any reasonable grounds to assign for refusing to contribute to his mother's maintenance?—Defendant: Well, I should be very happy to support her if it was in my power, but it is not; and as to what she says about the profits I derive from my shoemaking business, I can assure you that I have not earned a penny at that for a great number of weeks. I admit that I receive a guinea a-week from the City; but that is all we have to live upon; and when you deduct out of that 4*s*. 6*d*. for rent and the cost of a Sunday's dinner, you will find that there is not much left.—Magistrate: Well, you are clearly liable for the support of your mother, and I feel it my duty to make an order upon you for the sum of 3*s*. per week.—Defendant: Ah, but you'll never get it from me. I can't pay it; and if you do, I must run in debt, I suppose.—The magistrate continued: I shall make an order upon you for the sum of 3*s*. per week for your mother's support, together with the costs attendant upon the present proceedings.—Defendant: Oh, very well; you may make your order if you like, but it 's out of my power.—The order was about to be made, when the defendant turned round sharply upon the relieving officer, and said, "Well, now, suppose I took my mother to keep myself, what would you allow me for her? Come, that 's the point. Certainly, if you allow me something for her, I may be able to get on perhaps.—The officer expressed his belief that the mother would prefer being in the union.—The mother: Oh dear, yes; I should not be alive a week in London, whereas I should be safe in the country if they even left me upon the common. I prefer being in the workhouse, for I am very comfortable there.—The defendant thereupon leant over to his mother, expressing his willingness to take care of her, and, with apparent feeling, told her that he was very sorry she should have to come there; and, upon the order being made, and one of the officers coming forward to raise her out of the chair, the defendant pushed him aside, and gently raising her, with his arm round her waist, supported her out of the court.

At Stafford Assizes, on the 16th, Benjamin Griffiths was tried for *bigamy*. He was married to his first wife in 1840. She confessed that she had committed adultery with her husband's nephew. He thereupon refused to live with her, took away his three children, placed them with a person whom he employed to take care of them, and went to America. He returned in 1847; and married a second wife, his first being then alive and chargeable to the parish. The overseers applied to him to maintain her, and summoned him before the magistrates for not doing so; but the magistrates upon hearing the case dismissed the summons against him, and thereupon the parish authorities instituted the present prosecution. Mr. Baron Platt told the jury, that it was a shameful prosecution, and was evidently only instituted by the parish authorities as a kind of screw to compel an honest hard-working man to support a prostitute wife. However, a breach of the law had clearly been committed, and the jury must therefore find the prisoner guilty. The jury thereupon returned a verdict of "Guilty," with the observation that they thought it "a very hard case." Mr. Baron Platt—"Everybody must think so: it is a shameful perversion of the law. Prisoner, you are fined one shilling, and discharged; and the parish must pay for the prosecution." The prisoner paid the fine, and left the dock.

At the village of Clayton-on-the-heights, near Halifax, on the 16th, a young man named Abraham Jessop *Shot his Wife*, to whom he had only recently been married, and afterwards *Blew out his own Brains*. Both were about twenty-five years of age, and though married but a few months, were living apart in consequence of domestic differences arising from Jessop's habits of intoxication. Jessop had latterly desired a reconciliation, but failing, sought an interview on the 16th, with a view to putting a period to all future strife, by murdering his wife, and afterwards destroying himself. After taking several glasses of ardent spirits at a public house to keep up his courage, he entered the house where his wife resided, and found her in the presence of her mother and sister. He asked her to accompany him to the door for a private conversation, but she declined. He attempted to induce her to listen to him in another room. This she also refused, and he then took from one of his coat pockets a pistol, and discharged it with the muzzle almost close to her person. The ball took effect in the left breast, but missed the heart. Before any attempt at interference could be made, he drew a second pistol, and placing the muzzle under his right ear, discharged the contents through his head. The unfortunate wife ran to the door, and sank upon the causeway in a state of insensibility. She was afterwards carried to bed, and surgical aid being procured and the wounds staunched, she still survives. It is feared, however, that the ball has passed through a portion of the lungs, and that she cannot ultimately recover. The wound which Jessop inflicted on himself was mortal. He fell upon the floor, and expired, his skull being fearfully shattered.

A double Murder was perpetrated on the 17th, at Juniper Green, a village about five miles from Edinburgh. Dr. Wilson, a medical practitioner, resided with his aged mother in the village, a servant they employed sleeping at another house. A man named Pearson, who has been subject to fits of insanity, and had been confined in a lunatic asylum for four years, went last Sunday night to Dr. Wilson's for medicine; the servant left him in the house—departing in some apprehension from the strange conduct of the man. Early next morning, Dr. Wilson and his mother were found dead, and horribly mangled, on the floor of the lower apartments. Pearson was found upstairs in Mrs. Wilson's bed, naked, and fast asleep. When awakened, one of his exclamations was, "Here I am; quite clean, you see!" He had burnt his clothes; some remnants of which, his watch, and other articles, were found in a grate. His whole manner indicated insanity: he had recently had fits of madness: sometimes he was friendly towards Dr. Wilson, and sometimes the reverse. Dr. Wilson was a vigorous middle-aged man; his mother was eighty-six years old.

At Exeter Assizes, on the 20th, Thomas King was found guilty of *Attempting to Murder his aged Father* and his housekeeper, with the object of effecting a robbery. On the 12th of February, he had gone to his

father's, at Forder, and had supper; when he thought the old man was asleep, he went to his bedroom, cut him with a sharp instrument, beat him with the kitchen-poker, and left him senseless. Then he went to the housekeeper's room, saying his father was ill; as soon as the woman opened the door, he felled her with the poker; and proceeded to rifle the house. He was taken at Plymouth next day, while attempting to sell his father's watch. The mangled victims subsequently revived a little; they were brought to the Sessions in a spring-van, quite helpless, and presented a pitiable spectacle. He was sentenced to transportation for life.

The Rev. Henry Meeres, successor to Mr. Whiston as head-master of the Grammar School at Rochester, was summoned before the magistrates, on the 20th, and fined 3*l.*, with 25*s.* costs, for unmercifully *Beating and Misusing One of his Pupils.*

In an action at Maidstone Assizes, on the 21st, brought by Miss Jane Emma Adams against Mr. Richard Gibbs, to recover damages for *a Breach of Promise of Marriage*, the defendant pleaded a special plea—that after making the promise of marriage to Miss Adams, he learned that she was suffering from an "incurable disease called consumption," which would render her "unable to perform the duties of a wife." Mr. Gibbs was a neighbour of the plaintiff's father at Wateringbury, knew her from her infancy up, and made her a regular offer, with a full knowledge of her circumstances, in August, 1848, at which time she was twenty-four and he forty-eight. The licence was bought and the day fixed; but on the day of signing settlements the defendant disappeared, fled to America, and never reappeared till October, 1849, when he was found in London. It seems that two sisters of the plaintiff died young, of consumption, and that a brother went abroad to escape it. The medical attendant of the plaintiff admitted his having administered cod's-liver oil and other remedies very suitable for consumption, but said the plaintiff had not been ill of that disease. Several eminent London physicians, who had attended the plaintiff, were in court, attending the cause, but were not examined; neither plaintiff nor defendant called for their evidence. The jury gave a verdict of 800*l.*

At Exeter, on the 22nd, Robert Curtis Bird and Sarah Bird, his wife, were indicted for the *Wilful Murder* of Mary Ann Parsons, a parish apprentice, by striking and beating her to death. The particulars of this revolting case were given in our January number. For the defence it was urged, that the immediate cause of death was a fall or blow—most likely the former: if a fall, neither party was guilty; if a blow, there was nothing at all to fix the guilt on both of the prisoners, or either one more than the other. This view received the sanction of Mr. Justice Talfourd in his summing-up. In order to maintain an indictment for murder or manslaughter, it must be made out that the unlawful act was the cause of death. The cause of death was an injury to the head by a fall or blow: the jury could not leap in the dark, and in the absence of proof infer that a blow was struck, or if struck, dealt by either one prisoner rather than the other. If the death had been caused by privation or want of food, the male prisoner alone would be responsible; if a long succession of wrongs had caused the death, there would be a case; but the medical testimony failed to establish either such case. The prisoners must therefore be acquitted. On this direction the jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty."

At Lambeth Police Office, on the 23rd, Mr. George Waddington attended to explain continued *Ill-conduct towards his Son*, the Reverend John Waddington, a Wesleyan minister. About a month ago, Mr. Waddington was charged by his son with annoying him; and he was held to bail. Mr. Waddington, it then appeared, complained in his turn of the conduct of his three sons, all ministers of religion, who would not render him that pecuniary aid which was well in their power; in consequence, he annoyed his son John at his chapel, and went to his house in Surrey Square, and there wrote defamatory sentences with chalk on the pavement. The son stated to the magistrate, that his father had some years ago deserted his mother, to live with another woman; leaving his family to struggle on as they might. He now allowed him 10*s.* a-month, which was as much as he could afford. The father was in prison for some time; but having got bail, he recommenced the annoyance. Mr. Norton sent for him to point out again the impropriety of his conduct, and to warn him from continuing it. The remonstrance, however, seemed to make no impression on Waddington, who threatened to persist in annoying his son.

Alexander Moir, a baker, of Brydges-street, Covent-garden, has been charged with *Wilfully causing the Death of his Wife*, by most cruel beatings. It appears that Moir and his wife have been constantly quarrelling. Lately a lodger heard them scuffling in their bedroom, and Mrs. Moir's voice saying, "You'll kill me, you'll surely kill me!" Moir's voice replied, "I'll murder you before I've done with you!" A boy's voice was then heard—"Oh, father, don't kill mother! you'll kill my mother!" A journeyman heard a noise in their bedroom, which was over his bed, as of dragging about on the floor, and he heard Moir talking "very ferocious." When he called his master up, he saw Mrs. Moir, and perceived that her face and neck were swelled, and she was crying. On Saturday morning, the 23rd, Mrs. Moir's female cousin saw her repeatedly struck and kicked by her husband: he refused leave for her to lie down an hour, though she had been up all night, and was ill. In the afternoon he was offended at some act in the business, and again boxed her ears very heavily; in a few minutes after she swooned; he prevented the shopman from lifting her up, saying, with an epithet, "Let her lie—let her come to herself!" She recovered enough to say to her cousin, "I am in a fit, and a very bad one; pray, for God's sake, don't leave me," and again swooned. Moir exclaimed, she should never lie on a bed of his again; but, after some hours, her cousin persuaded him to let her be put on a bed. She lingered insensible till Monday, and died. Mr. Watkins, a surgeon, has given evidence, that he was called on Sunday, and the case was then evidently a fatal one. On a post-mortem examination he found the body covered with bruises and wounds. The injuries were caused by blows, and those blows had been the cause of death. Moir was examined at Bow-street and remanded on the charge of murder. On the 27th, a Coroner's jury sat, and after hearing evidence, found a verdict of "Manslaughter against the husband." On the 28th the inquiry at Bow-street was continued. Some facts appeared which suggested that the assault of Saturday was committed in a great passion, and that Moir thought his wife was drunk. On her death he was at first unaffected, but subsequently "much cut up." The magistrate committed him to be tried for murder.

At Worship Street Police Office, on the 27th, W. S. Jenkins and Charles Pound were examined on a charge of obtaining 800*l.* from Mr. Newman, a colour-manufacturer in Hoxton, by *Fraudulent Pretences*. A preliminary examination had taken place before. Pound, who falsely pretended that he was an attorney, was introduced to Mr. Newman by that gentleman's nephew; he represented that Jenkins, a very young man, was about to come into 20,000*l.* under a will,—producing what appeared to be a legal copy of a will; and by this and other means induced Mr. Newman to lend money and bills to Jenkins, who was introduced to him. It appeared subsequently, that Jenkins only had a claim to a small property, now undergoing a process of litigation which would most likely consume it all. The copy of the will mentioning 20,000*l.* was a fraud. The case was further adjourned; the magistrate requiring heavy bail.

At the Mansion House, on the 27th, Rose Hunt, aged 19, was brought before Alderman Gibbs, on a charge of having attempted to commit *Suicide*. The unfortunate creature had been for four years living a wretched life of prostitution in the eastern parts of London. Her history presents a melancholy example of the way in which the streets of London are replenished with victims.—Rose Hunt is the daughter of a person who once kept a respectable inn in a country town, but who has become so reduced as to be now dependent upon parochial relief. About four years ago, when only 15 years of age, she met a young woman at a

fair in Suffolk, who endeavoured to win her confidence. By means of this female she was introduced into a house of ill-fame, seduced, and eventually brought by her to London. She was taken to a low concert room in Tower-hill, and left to a course of prostitution amongst the lowest class of the waterside district. About nine months ago, as she wandered about one Sunday afternoon, she saw the door of a chapel open, and went in to rest. What she there heard of mercy for the vilest sinners, made such an impression as to render her most unhappy under the course of life she had been pursuing. At last, existence became intolerable, and she resolved to put an end to it.—Alderman: I have been told by the chaplain that you are truly penitent, and that you detest the life you have been leading.—The defendant: I would prefer death at this instant.—Alderman: Very well. You shall be protected. I shall refer you to the Ladies' Patronage Committee, with a view to your reception into the Elizabeth Fry Refuge for the present. I trust it will be stated in the newspapers, that the wretch who was the cause of all this calamity is now at Norwich, engaged in the same dreadful traffic of seduction.—The defendant: May God bless you for saving me.

At the Liverpool Assizes, on the 28th, Dr. Nolan, minister of a congregation of Independents at Manchester, appeared as plaintiff in *An Action of Slander* against one Pettigrew, for stating in the presence of a person named Ford, that Dr. Nolan had seduced certain female members, and had given medicine to one to prevent the consequences. There had been religious strife in Dr. Nolan's congregation; he had resigned, and been re-elected minister; afterwards it had been found that the re-election was not legal in form, and a heated canvassing and contest arose. It was in the course of this agitation that the defendant made the statement complained of. The defendant was a respectable serious man, and had made his statement in good faith, privately, to Mr. Ford, as a person holding office in the congregation and having weight in the election. The defence was double,—that the communication was privileged; and that it was true. The evidence was contradictory: some scandalous facts were sworn to on the one hand, and denied on the other. But the Judge ruled that the communication *was* privileged; and a verdict was given for the defendant.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

AN *Explosion and Fire* occurred on the 4th, at the Naphtha Manufactory of Mr. James Bapty, chemist, New Wortley. To prevent the disagreeable fumes generated in making naphtha, Mr. Bapty had a pipe fixed, by which they were conveyed from the still into a tall chimney; the pipe was defective, and a new one was ordered, but had not been got ready. Meanwhile the old pipe had been repaired, and all went on safely, till about ten minutes before six o'clock on the evening of the 4th, when, in discharging the still, a quantity of the gaseous product escaped through chinks in the pipe, and as the fire had only been partially extinguished, in an instant a violent explosion took place. The roof of the building was lifted up perpendicularly, and the flames were forced out laterally for several yards, and Mr. Bapty, Mr. John Brook, and two persons, named Joseph Wrigley and John Williamson, enveloped in a sheet of fire, had to make their way out of it as best they could. A larger building, to which that in which the explosion took place forms a wing, was also set on fire. Mr. Brook, one of the injured parties, expired on the 6th.

A young woman, Mary Donnellan, of Rinana, left the Ennis Fever Hospital on the 7th, and endeavoured to crawl home, faint and fasting, a distance of 10 miles; she got into some kind of a wretched old hovel, where she was found next day, *Dead of Hunger and Exhaustion*, and her face eaten away by rats.

On the afternoon of the 11th, a series of *Terrific Explosions* occurred in the powder-mills belonging to Messrs. Curtis and Harvey, the well-known gunpowder manufacturers and contractors at Hounslow. Eight lives were lost, and two other men seriously injured. At the time of the explosion, there were no less than 150 men employed about the works. The works were insured, but not for accidents of this kind—the insurance companies would not take them on any terms to run the risk of explosions.

The immense warehouses of Messrs. J. P. Westhead and Co., in Piccadilly-street, Manchester, were wholly *Destroyed by Fire* on the night of the 13th. The building, erected twelve or thirteen years ago, was an exceedingly fine pile of warehouses, forming the centre of a block of shops and warehouse fronting the Royal Infirmary. The fire occurred under very extraordinary circumstances. The packers and some of the warehousemen and clerks were engaged in making up some heavy orders for goods to go by railway, till after eleven o'clock at night. On leaving the premises, the clerk whose duty it was to examine the various rooms to see that all was safe, called another young man to accompany him, and, together, they made the interior circuit of the interior of the warehouse, leaving it under the persuasion that all was safe. Yet scarcely had the youth who carried the keys to their usual place of deposit for the night, less than two miles distant, reached there, when he was overtaken with the alarm that the premises were on fire. The fire is supposed to have broken out in the top storey, or top storey but one, and was discovered a little before twelve o'clock, but from what it originated is not known. Property worth more than 100,000*l.*, was destroyed, and the insurance reached but 82,000*l.* The buildings had five shafts piercing each floor, and covered by a dome skylight. When the glass was destroyed, "each of the series of openings through the floors under them acted as immense flues, through which a resistless draught of air rushed up: they became centres of heat, roaring and spouting forth fire like so many volcanoes; rolls of ribands, and the remnants of partially consumed lighter goods, drawn within the vortex of these centres, were shot up into the air like rockets." One fireman was killed, and another mortally wounded, by falling walls, after the fire.

On the 16th, an *Explosion of Fire-damp* took place at Messrs. Evans and Turners' colliery, in Haydock. The explosion occurred in what is called the "Rock-pit," and thirteen persons were either burned or smothered to-death, some of them being literally burned to a cinder. Eleven of the parties were working in a drift 1000 yards from the pit-eye, without any conductor, when the explosion took place; all of whom were burned to death. Two others were working about 120 yards nearer the pit-eye, and they, on hearing the explosion, rushed into the face of the fire, instead of making to the pit-eye. The men were allowed safety-lamps, if they thought proper to use them; but there appears to have been no restriction against working with naked candles, although the men had to run away from the fire only the day before.

Miss Paul, daughter of Mr. Walter Paul, of Highgrove, near Tetbury, was accidentally *Burnt to Death* on the 20th. On that evening, Mr. Paul gave a ball previous to his son, Captain Paul, leaving home to join his regiment. At about nine o'clock Miss Paul retired from the ball-room; having an attack of tic doloureux, she proceeded up stairs to her own room. It is supposed she fainted as she proceeded from one room to the other, the lighted candle fell from her hand, and her dress, composed of white lace, rapidly ignited, and the young lady was instantly enveloped in flames. She endeavoured to extinguish the fire by throwing a basin of water over herself, and her screams alarmed the attendants; but before their efforts could subdue the flames she was so severely burnt as to leave no hopes of recovery, and three days after she expired.

Ten persons were *Poisoned* at Stow Bardolph, in Norfolk, on the 20th. The family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Page, their son, Mr. Page's two sisters, a governess, a man servant, and three female servants, sat down to breakfast, and partook of tea, sweetened by some white sugar, purchased at Downham by Mrs. Page. After drinking the tea, Mr. Page complained that he felt sick, and attributed it to the sugar. It was then examined, and a few particles of white substance were discovered in the basin. One of the females present remarked that it was very likely that the stuff was put in to cheapen

the sugar, and it was determined that it should only be used for puddings. At dinner a fruit pudding was served up, and the sugar was again used. Immediately after dinner, the whole of the family was seized with symptoms of poisoning, and experienced dreadful agony. Mr. Page died in the course of the night, and the medical gentleman in attendance has since reported the death of his son. Hopes are entertained that the other members of the family and the servants, all of whom are still very ill, will recover.

Early on the morning of the 20th, Miss Craven, the daughter of Mr. Craven, solicitor, of Bristol, about eighteen years of age, went out for a walk on Durdham Down, just above St. Vincent's Rocks. Unfortunately she approached too near the edge of the down, and, being near-sighted, *slipped from the Edge of the Cliff*, and fell to the bottom of the chasm below, at least 200 feet. Two persons happened at the moment to be walking at the foot of the cliff, and observing her fall, hastened to the spot, but found only a heap of mangled remains.

The beautiful parish church of St. Anne, Limehouse, *was Totally Destroyed by Fire* on the 29th. The fire originated in the chamber between the ceiling and the roof, where a heated flue-pipe emerged to the air. The two attendants who discovered it, about eight in the morning, alarmed the parishioners by an irregular tolling of all the bells, and in a short time a large multitude hastened to the spot. All endeavours to check the flames were futile, from the great height at which they raged; so efforts were confined to the saving of muniments, sacred paraphernalia, and valuable ornaments. The great central chandelier had scarcely been removed when the ceiling of the nave fell in. The conflagration then assumed an aspect of imposing grandeur; flames rushed in eddying streams from the side-windows, and chased up the steeple to a vast height in the air, with a terrific roaring and succession of crackling reports. The organ stood a long time, apparently unattacked; at last its pipes were seen to give way, melted by the furnace heat of the air which rushed through them; suddenly the framework was enveloped in flame, and then in a short time the whole was destroyed. As the belfry was reached and the machinery consumed, the bells fell with a crash and shock that shook the earth. Ultimately, the bare walls, the steeple, and the calcined columns that once gracefully lifted the ceiling, were alone left standing. So completely is everything combustible destroyed, that the débris now covers the floor to a depth of some two or three feet. St. Anne's Church was one of Hawksmoor's most beautiful works; the date of its building was 1712, the cost about 35,000*l*. There is an insurance to the amount of about 5,000*l*.

Mr. Lowndes, Judge of the Liverpool County Court, was accidentally *Drowned* on Sunday night, the 31st. He was awaiting with his son the arrival of the Seacombe steamer; and, as it neared the landing-stage, he moved as if to step on board, but missed his footing, and fell into the rapidly flowing tide. His son rushing forward, was seized by the skirts, but he tore away instantly and dived after his father, without success. The son was rescued a long distance down the stream.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

THE renewed *Ten-hours Act Agitation* proceeds with vigour in the manufacturing districts of Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire.—At Manchester, a second meeting of delegates from the Lancashire operatives was held on the 24th, and a meeting of the power-loom over-lookers of Manchester and Salford was held on the 26th of February. At the delegate meeting, which was large and earnest, it was resolved to intrust the conduct of the proposed bill to Lord Ashley, and to request Lord John Manners and Mr. George Bankes to give him their aid and influence. The meeting of overlookers resolved, in very determined spirit, to hold no parley or communication with any man or set of men who would depart from ten hours' labour on five days in the week and eight on Saturday.—At Oldham, a large public meeting, called on the requisition of 745 householders, was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Alderman Taylor, (the Mayor being ill,) on the 25th. A show of hands was taken on the question of ten hours or eleven hours, and the opinion was unanimous in favour of ten. A letter was read from Mr. W. J. Fox, M.P. for Oldham, expressing his opinion that the decision of the Court of Exchequer grossly violates the spirit of the Ten-hours Act, and he offered his honest and hearty support to Lord Ashley in the new movement. Mr. John Mills was delegated to visit London and canvass the members of both houses in support of the proposed bill.—At Bradford, a numerous meeting of operatives was held on the same day. Mr. J. Pollard presided; Dr. Burnet, Vicar of Bradford, Mr. C. Harding, Mr. Rand, Mr. W. E. Forster, of Rawdon, and many other leading manufacturers of the town and neighbourhood, took part in the proceedings. One of the speakers who held up his hand against violation of the law was a leading manufacturer, who had originally opposed its enactment. The feeling in favour of the law was perfectly unanimous. It was resolved that delegates should go to London with a memorial to the Queen, and petitions to both houses of parliament.

At a meeting of the "new Short-time Committee," on the 29th, in Manchester, it appeared that Lord Ashley's bill is not deemed "sufficiently explicit." A resolution was moved, to the effect that if Lord Ashley refuse to embody the terms which the committee propose, the matter should be placed in the hands of some other member.

A public meeting has been held at Manchester to consider the necessity of *a General Organisation* of labour amongst all the trades. Mr. Abel Heywood, the chairman, stated that cooperative societies have been introduced in several parts of Lancashire, are doing well, and becoming of great advantage to the parties interested. This statement was borne out by detailed accounts from the months of working members of such societies. The success of a cooperative society at Salford was thus described by Mr. William Stork—Twelve months ago, a few individuals united with full confidence in each other; and having raised 7*s*. 6*d*. they bought a little raw material, and gave a day's employment to a poor man out of work. They gradually increased their capital and raw material, and continued to employ poor individuals until they had now a capital of between 50*l*. and 60*l*. They paid 5*d*. a hat more for making than a man would get elsewhere; and though they sold it for less than a manufacturer would do, they got a small profit. Before a man was admitted a member of the society, he was asked to give up lying, swearing, intemperance, and to be perfectly open with the others, assisting them in every way he could.—It was resolved unanimously, "That the system of competition is not only unjust in its principle, but immoral in its tendencies, endangering the public and robbing the working man of a just remuneration for his labour;" and a system of organisation upon the principles of co-operation was recommended for the united adoption of all the trades.

A meeting of the inhabitants of Pentonville was held on the 27th ult., for the purpose of adopting measures to obtain the abolition of *Intramural Interments;* Mr. Mackinnon, M.P. for Leamington, in the chair. The Secretary of the London Society for the abolition of burials in towns explained the origin and objects of the society, stating that it was their intention to form auxiliary societies in all the metropolitan districts, in order to carry out this most important sanitary reform. In the course of the proceedings many details were given of the disgusting condition of the grave-yards in Pentonville and its vicinity, particularly Spitalfields and St. Giles's Cemetery, Camden-town. Resolutions were adopted, declaring the practice of burying the dead in large towns to be productive of incalculable evils, and calling upon parliament speedily to pass a measure, founded upon the late report of the Board of Health. A petition to parliament embodying these resolutions, was also adopted.—A meeting of the medical practitioners of the West-end took place the same day at Dr. H. Bennett's residence, 9, Cambridge-square, Hyde park, to petition parliament for the immediate and total abolition of intramural burials and especially for

the closure of St. George's, Hanover-square, burial-ground, as being the prolific source of disease in its neighbourhood. Dr. Chowne was called to the chair, and amongst those who addressed the meeting were Drs. Drury, Adey, Webber, Bennett, Tilt, Goolden, Douglas, G. A. Walker, Powell, &c. Resolutions in accordance with the objects stated in the requisition were adopted.

The Court of Common Council agreed, on the 28th of February, to subscribe 500*l.* towards the fund for carrying out the *Industrial Exhibition of* 1851.

About forty of the leading manufacturers and commercial men in Manchester have met, under the chairmanship of the Bishop of Manchester, and agreed to resolutions pledging themselves to set on foot an active canvass for subscriptions in aid of the Industrial Exposition. Upwards of 2500*l.* was subscribed on the spot.

In a Court of Common Council, on the 5th inst., Mr. Barber brought forward a motion, that the public convenience would be promoted, and the architectural beauty of the west end of the *Cathedral Church of St. Paul* much better displayed, if the dwarf wall and railing round the enclosed area in front thereof were removed and the space paved with flag-stones, as at the Royal Exchange. Sir Peter Laurie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted. A deputation was immediately appointed to wait upon the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London on the subject.

A public meeting was held in the London Tavern on the 4th instant, to consider *The Evils of the large Powers intrusted to Railway Companies*, which practically give them a monopoly of the internal carrying trade. A preliminary meeting, held on the 20th ultimo, had considered the subject, and resolved to request Baron Rothschild to convene a public meeting. He complied; convened the present assemblage, which included representatives of sixty leading firms of the City; and himself took the chair. In opening the proceedings, Baron Rothschild stated his strong feeling, that the interests of the shareholders of railways are so identified with those of the public, that the companies cannot thrive unless they give every possible accommodation to their customers. Mr. Dalton detailed the leading grievances to which the companies subject the general carrying-trade in London,—the monopoly granted to the two great firms of Pickford and Co., and Chaplin and Horne; the revival of the system, declared by the courts to be illegal, of inspecting the contents of packages, and charging separately for each parcel of a package of parcels; the refusal to be accountable for loss of market caused by delay, detention, or any other cause; and the arbitrary sale of goods not removed in fourteen days. Mr. M. Forster, M.P., moved, and Mr. Henry, M.P., seconded, a resolution, affirming the necessity of applying efficient checks on the practical monopoly of the companies. Mr. Sadleir, M.P., moved, and Mr. Groucock seconded, a resolution, that some of the present rates and arrangements of the companies are unjust and oppressive, and no less opposed to the interests of the shareholders than to the interests of the public. Mr. Dillon, Mr. Caldecott, Mr. White, and Mr. William Hawes, supported resolutions for carrying out these opinions, by the formation of a committee, and the collection of a subscription. Mr. Walker called attention to the disgraceful treatment of third-class passengers, a matter of at least equal importance to the carrying of goods. A committee was selected, including most of the speakers.

A meeting of the master tailors of London was held on the 4th instant, to consider the present *Distress among the Journeymen Tailors*, and the proper remedies. Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Prague, Mr. Wain, of the firm of Stulz and Co., Mr. Stohwasser, and Mr. Adeney, with other respectable members of the trade, vouched for the miserable state of the journeyman class. It was the general opinion that most of that misery is caused by the system of out-door working, which introduces the middleman and the oppressions of the "sweating-system." As a means towards the improvement of the moral, social, and physical condition of the journeyman tailor, it was resolved that all the workmen be employed in the workshop of the master; that the practice of using public-houses for houses of call be abolished; that reading-rooms, where tea and coffee could be obtained, be substituted; and that a joint committee, consisting of an equal number of masters and workmen, be annually chosen for the determination of all disputes between the employer and the employed. A number of master tailors were accordingly nominated, towards the formation of the proposed committee.

At the annual meeting of the *Directors of King's College Hospital*, it was stated that the out-door patients during the past year had been 21,048, and the in-door patients 1261. During the cholera epidemic, 123 cases of cholera were received in the hospital, and 83 of them were cured. The extra charge of the arrangements made during that pestilence, to afford more assistance to the public, had caused the expenses (4660*l.*) to exceed the income (4512*l.*), and swelled the outstanding debt to 530*l.* Towards the fund of 50,000*l.* for building a new hospital, about 22,000*l.* has now been raised.

The opening of the first completed tube of the *Britannia Bridge*, across the Menai Straits, was accomplished with triumphant success on the 5th. At half-past six in the morning, three engines were brought up to the Bangor station, harnessed together, mounted by Mr. Robert Stephenson, with a few selected professional assistants and friends, and driven swiftly to the entrance of the bridge-tunnel. Slackening speed as they drew near, the engines advanced at a slow pace, and were presently out of sight in the aërial corridor. The train again paused in the centre of the tunnel, each experimenter's eye and ear watching for signs or sounds of danger. When they emerged from the other end, with flags streaming out cheerily, and engineers holding their hats aloft in the air, a shout from each shore testified the relieved suspense; and immediately afterwards a general din of sounds, and a visible commotion in the crowds, showed that they shared the excitement and triumph of the event.—The subsequent proceedings were watched with an interest freer from anxiety. A train of waggons laden with huge blocks of Brymbo coal, weighing altogether some 300 tons, was drawn through the tube at a slow pace, without the least appearance of deflection or strain. The engineer then ceremoniously gave the finishing-touch to the work, by inserting and clenching the last of the rivets—exactly 2,000,000—which have been used in making the tubes. The proceedings closed with a brief address by Mr. Stephenson, in which he eulogised the skill of the foreman, Mr. Fleet, and the intelligent industry of the workmen. The engineers remounted their iron steeds and steamed to Plas Llanfar, the seat of Mr. Foster, where a handsome repast awaited them. During their absence, the most severe test of any was applied to the structure. A train of 200 tons of coals was drawn to the centre of the Carmarthenshire tube, and left there stationary for two hours. A delicate admeasurement showed a total deflection, under this dead weight, of not more than 49-100ths of an inch,—an amount actually less than the diurnal variation due to the expanding influence of the sun. At twelve o'clock, a final testing-train was organised, to allow the public an opportunity of going once through. More than seven hundred passengers—including many ladies, were drawn in forty carriages after the train of 200 tons of coal; an immense aggregate weight of 400 tons. The train nearly occupied the whole length of the tube: as it swept through, salvoes of artillery were fired from each pier and from the banks; a body of seamen perched on the towers shouted a stanza from "Rule Britannia," and the excited passengers swelled the chorus to a roar as they emerged from the Welsh end of the tunnel. With these performances the inauguration terminated. Aloft on each entrance-tower of the bridge are these words, deeply graven in the stone—"Erected anno Domini 1850: Robert Stephenson, engineer."

The Lord Mayor gave a splendid banquet at the Mansion-house on the 7th, to the Chief Magistrates of the cities, towns, and boroughs of the United Kingdom, to stir up their interest in the *Exposition of* 1851. At the head of the list of guests was Prince Albert. The hall was specially adorned for the occasion in the most magnificent style, with arms of the counties and corporations, trophies characterising local industry, painted windows, allegorically representing the pacific and com-

mercial influences of the Exposition, &c. Before the banquet, about a quarter past six o'clock, Prince Albert held a levée in the grand drawing-room of the Mansion-house; the Lord Mayor presenting the Magistrates of two hundred and two English cities and Boroughs, ten Scotch Provosts, and five Irish Mayors. The company included the Archbishop of Canterbury, Foreign Ministers, leading statesmen of all parties, the Commissioners of the Exposition, the Aldermen, Masters of Companies, Chairmen of Committees in Common Council, and some leading gentlemen connected with the City. Prince Albert, the principal ministers, and former ministers, were among the speakers. His Royal Highness's speech excited great interest. His leading idea was, that the modern developments of science and art, commerce and industry —the intercommunication of language, the lightning interchange of thought, the publicity of discovery— are all rapidly tending to realise "the unity of mankind;" and that man, "himself a divine instrument," is using "his reason, created after the image of God," to fulfil "that great and sacred mission." As one of the commissioners, Sir Robert Peel invited all the Mayors, who had shared the hospitality of the Mansion-house, to attend at Whitehall next morning, and receive the information with which the commissioners would be glad to supply them. The Lord Mayor has since received a letter written by the order of Prince Albert, expressing the gratification which his Royal Highness derived from the banquet given in promotion of the Industrial Show, and congratulating him on the complete success which bids fair to attend this endeavour to unite all parties and classes throughout the kingdom in its support.

At the general meeting of the corporation of the *Royal Literary Fund* on the 13th, the report of the auditors stated that the sum of 1325*l.* had been distributed during the past year, among forty-one applicants, making a total of 37,865*l.* applied to the relief of distressed authors, their widows and orphans, since the institution of the Society in 1788.

A meeting of Hertfordshire Farmers was held on the 16th, for the purpose of *Reducing the Payments for work done by Tradesmen.* The resolutions adopted were as follow:—"As the value of agricultural produce is greatly lessened by the free importation of foreign corn, it is the opinion of this meeting that farmers in general must adopt a system of wise and vigilant economy, extending to every branch of expenditure unavoidably incurred. And as those employed in trade are reaping considerable advantage from the cheapness of food, it is thought that the tradesman should now be able, without injury to himself, to make a considerable reduction in his charges. This meeting is also of opinion that the tradesman, artisan, and labourer dependent on agriculture should be made sensible that free trade is a labour question, and that they are affected by it, on account of the serious difficulty and distress of their employers, arising from foreign competition. Resolved,—That the tradesmen in this neighbourhood be requested to reduce their charges in the following ratio:—Blacksmith, to 6*d.* per shoe, 3*d.* removes, 6*d.* coulters; all ordinary work, 15 per cent.; collar-maker, reduced by 15 per cent.; wheelwright, 20 per cent.; carpenter, reduced to 3*s.* per day; bricklayer, 3*s.* per day; ditto labourer, 1*s.* 8*d.* per day; hurdle-maker, 3*s.* 6*d.* per dozen; thatcher, 9*d.* per square foot. Resolved,—In order to carry out the above resolution, an association be formed in this district—(here about twenty parishes are named.) That the tenant-farmers in the neighbourhood be invited to become members of the association. That the members determine not to employ any tradesman whose prices do not conform with the above scale. That the landowners be requested to give their assistance in furtherance of the object of this association."

The fifth anniversary dinner of the *General Theatrical Fund* institution took place on the 25th, at the London Tavern, Mr. B. Webster in the chair, supported by Lord E. Bruce, Mr. R. J. Tennent, M.P., Sir F. Joddrell, Bart., Mr. Charles Dickens, Mr. Mark Lemon, Mr. F. Stone, Mr. Buckstone, Mr. J. Leech, Mr. T. P. Cooke, &c. Mr. Webster, in the course of the evening, enlarged on the merits and objects of the fund, and recommended them with much earnestness and ability. Mr. Buckstone stated that the fund was in a state of increasing prosperity. The invested capital amounted to 5300*l.* It was still in its infancy, but there were already five annuitants in the receipt of 30*l.* a year each, and during the last year 23*l.* had been given to the widow of a deceased member. A list of subscriptions was announced, amounting in all to about 400*l.*, her Majesty being a donor of 100*l.*

The royal commission of inquiry into the administration and management of *The British Museum* has agreed on a report of their proceedings. The commissioners appear to be unanimous in condemning the present system and management, and in recommending an important modification in the duties and objects of the trustees rather than reduce the number. The evils of a board of 48 trustees unpaid, irregular, and individually responsible, were too clearly made out in the evidence to leave a doubt, and it is gratifying to learn that individual responsibility has been a leading principle with the commission. So far the commissioners are unanimous, and also in recommending an executive council under the control of the Home Secretary of State, but they do not appear to be all of one mind as to the details of appointment. Some advise a chairman and two members of council appointed by the Crown, and two other members to be named by the board of trustees; others recommend a chairman named by the Crown and four members in council to represent the trustees; and a third recommendation was discussed for a chairman and two members in council to be all appointed by the Crown. In regard to the catalogue the recommendation of the commissioners leans to a manuscript alphabetical catalogue with a printed index.

Mr. Baron Lefroy, in opening the commission at Galway, congratulated the grand jury on the marked *Decrease of Crime*, not only in that county but in the whole of the circuit through which he had travelled. The offence of cattle and sheep-stealing had in Galway diminished from 500 or 600 cases last year to 12 at the present assizes. Another topic of congratulation was the improved condition of the people, and the state of the land as regarded the progress of tillage. The learned judge also passed a high eulogium upon the very evident instances of the growth of industrious habits amongst the peasantry of the west.

The *Monthly Returns of Trade and Navigation* continue to be satisfactory, and prove that employment is steadily increasing. The return for the month ending February 5 is the first month of entire free trade in the carriage and import of foreign commodities. The comparison in the table is with the corresponding months of 1848 and 1849. The table shows a great increase in the materials of industry, though there has been a decrease on several important items. The diminished import of coffee is ascribed to short crops and increased adulteration. There has also been a considerable falling-off in the importation of timber, in all its shapes, owing chiefly to the diminished amount of railways in the course of construction. The corn returns show an increase against the corresponding month of 1848, but a very great decrease, in the proportion of three to one, in the comparison with 1849. This is sufficiently accounted for by the notorious fact, that now for several months the prices have been higher comparatively in foreign markets than in our own. In the importation of various foreign manufactures there has been a considerable increase; but it is proper to observe that these articles are subject to duties. The total declared value of all the articles enumerated in the table for the three months compared in the return is, for the month ending—

February 5, 1848	£3,373,713
„ 1849	3,211,146
„ 1850	4,069,431

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Queen and Prince Albert *left town for Windsor* on the 25th, and have maintained a comparative privacy during Passion week; the Duchess of Kent being the only guest at the evening circle. Her Majesty has taken daily exercise on foot, or in the open carriage.

The *Royal Charities* customary at Easter were distri-

buted at the Buckingham Palace gate, on Monday and Tuesday, the 25th and 26th, and at Whitehall Chapel on Maundy Thursday; upwards of a thousand persons receiving gifts, varying from a crown to thirteen shillings each.

The Queen and Prince Albert have made *a further Donation* of 100*l.* towards the fund for completing the Model Baths and Wash-houses in Goulston Square.

The Queen has resolved to purchase for the Prince of Wales, by "a donation in one sum, the perpetual right of immediate *Admission for a Patient* into some of the leading charitable institutions of London." By her command, Colonel Phipps applied to the Royal Orthopœdic Institution for a statement of the sum for which the desired privilege might be purchased in that establishment; the committee fixed 250 guineas, and her Majesty acceded to the terms.

Prince Albert has presented to the *Boys of Eton College* a copy of the large work of Gruner, "On the Arts in the Mediæval Ages." On the fly-leaf preceding the title page is the autograph inscription, "Presented to the boys of Eton College, with a hope that this book may not be considered merely as an ornament to their library, but as a work freely to be used by them for recreation and the acquirement of taste.—Albert, Windsor Castle, Feb. 6, 1850."

Lord Gough and Lady Gough have arrived by the Indus, from Bombay. The inhabitants of Southampton gave Lord Gough a *Public Reception*. Sir George Hewett and a large deputation of officers, clergymen, and leading townsmen, presented a congratulatory address on his return home. Lord Gough made a warm reply; alluding to his fifty-six years of service, and acknowledging the double gratification of receiving the address through one of his oldest friends and most esteemed comrades, Sir George Hewett.

Major Edwardes has also arrived by the Indus. He has, at his own request, acted as *principal Aide-de camp* to Lord Gough throughout the journey from the Punjaub.

Major Edwardes was publicly welcomed to his native county of Shropshire on the 2nd, by the municipality and inhabitants of Shrewsbury. The mayor and corporation went in procession to the railway-station, accompanied by thousands of townsmen, to receive him; escorted him on foot to the town-hall, and presented him with an address, testifying their admiration and pride at his brilliant career.

A Magnificent Banquet was given to Viscount Gough by the East India Company, on the 16th, at the London Tavern. Lord John Russell and Sir Robert Peel were among the very large number of eminent guests, and were speakers.

A *Government Reward* of 20,000*l.*, or 10,000*l.* for furthering the discovery of Sir John Franklin, is notified in the Gazette of the 8th, in these terms:—

"1. To any party or parties who, in the judgment of the Board of Admiralty, shall discover and effectually relieve the crews of her Majesty's ships Erebus and Terror, the sum of 20,000*l.*, or,

"2. To any party or parties who, in the judgment of the Board of Admiralty, shall discover and effectually relieve any of the crews of her Majesty's ships Erebus and Terror, or shall convey such intelligence as shall lead to the relief of such crews, or any of them, the sum of 10,000*l.*, or,

"3. To any party or parties who, in the judgment of the Board of Admiralty, shall, by virtue of his or their efforts, first succeed in ascertaining their fate, 10,000*l.*"

Obituary of Notable Persons.

SIR JAMES GIBSON CRAIG, BART., died somewhat suddenly, at his house at Riccarton, about four miles from Edinburgh, on the 6th, in the 85th year of his age. He took a prominent part in all the great political struggles of this country from 1792 downwards, and was on terms of intimacy with Fox and most of the leaders of the old Whig school. As an acknowledgment of the services which he rendered to that party, he was created a baronet in 1831 by the government of Earl Grey.

MAJOR-GENERAL THE HON. SIR HERCULES ROWLEY PAKENHAM, K.G.B., brother to General Pakenham, who fell at New Orleans, and brother-in-law to the Duke of Wellington, died suddenly on the 7th, at Langford Lodge, in the county of Antrim. General Pakenham was about 70 years of age, and, as an officer, had earned a high character by his services in the Peninsular war.

GENERAL CHARLES CRAVEN, formerly of the 5th Dragoon Guards, died on the 22nd inst., at Walsall, in Staffordshire, in the 81st year of his age.

DOM PEDRO ALFONSO, heir-apparent to the Brazilian throne, died on the 9th January, after a few hours' illness.

COLONEL CAMPBELL, C.B., of the 9th Lancers, who commanded the 2nd Cavalry Brigade at Sobraon, died on the 23rd. He entered the army in 1806, and saw a great deal of service in India.

VICE-ADMIRAL HON. DONALD HUGH MACKAY, recently in the command of the squadron at Cork, died suddenly on the 26th, at his residence, in the Albany, Piccadilly. He was a distinguished officer, and had been in the service nearly 60 years.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR JOHN MACDONALD, G.C.B., Adjutant-General of the Forces, died on the 28th, after a very short illness, at his house in Bruton-street.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE mutiny of another Sepoy regiment (a Bengal regiment of native Infantry), in consequence of an alleged deprivation of extra batta, has excited some discussion in India. Such incidents undoubtedly raise painful questions. It is manifest that either they impeach the trustworthiness of men responsible for the Indian commissariat, or that they display a wide-spread tendency to disaffection among the Sepoy regiments. But in either, or both cases, Sir Charles Napier is the man to deal with them; and he has already shown with what uncompromising and unsparing energy he is prepared to do so. There is no other news of any moment, during the month past, either from India or any of the colonies. But a recent Bombay steamer brought us, if not news, some very prominent makers of news, in bringing over the two principal heroes of the late warlike scenes, Lord Gough and Major Edwardes. To the major the newspapers incontinently gave a wife and two children, which the gallant bachelor repudiated with a zeal so vehement as to flutter not a little the hopeful hearts of the maiden population.

The *Overland Mail* has brought news from Bombay to the 16th, and Calcutta to the 8th of February; and from Hong-Kong to the 30th of January.

The event of importance is a mutiny of a Bengal regiment of Native Infantry, at Umritza, on the 2nd of February. The men had for some time shown symptoms of insubordination on account of the Scinde batta, which they said pressed hard on them, considering the high price of food and their distance from their homes. Major Troup addressed them on the 1st, in explanation of the order; and was doing so again on the 2nd, when the men openly refused to obey orders. Some precautions, however, had been taken: the men had piled arms; a company of cavalry made its appearance at one of the gates of the fort; the mutineers ran to their piled arms, but the officers and the armed cavalry anticipated and prevented them; and after some rough struggling they were mastered, and turned out of the fort. Reinforcements arriving, the mutinous regiments were arrested *en masse*, and placed for custody on the glacis of the fort, under the muzzles of the guns loaded with grape shot.

From *Calcutta* an expedition has started for Darjeeling, against the Rajah of Sikkim, to call him to

account for the outrages against Dr. Hooker and Dr. Campbell.

At *Macao* the Portuguese had given up the Chinese soldiers taken prisoners in their attack on the forts after Governor Amiral's murder; and in return the Chinese had yielded up the head and hand of the late governor. These relics had been well preserved, and were both immediately recognised: the skull had been fractured, and the ring finger removed.

The only news of political interest brought by the *West India Mail* is from British Guiana, whence papers to the 18th of February have been received. At a special meeting of the Combined Court, on the 7th of February, it was resolved to apply for the 250,000*l.* loan which the mother-country is ready to advance: and to pledge the colonial duties and wine and spirits for its repayment of interest at 4 per cent. and a sinking fund of 2½ per cent. An advance of 50,000*l.* to the Railway Company at 6 per cent. interest was determined on.

The *Australian* news is not of political importance.—The Irish political offenders, Smith O'Brien, Meagher, O'Doherty, Martin, Donohue, and M'Manus, arrived at Hobart Town in the brig of war Swift, on the 27th of October. By the same vessel the governor received orders to grant the prisoners tickets of leave, on condition that the indulgence should not be made the means of escape. Mr. O'Brien rejected the offer of a ticket of leave, but all the others accepted the offer on the conditions expressed. M'Manus was located at Norfolk, Meagher at Campbell Town, O'Doherty at Oatlands, Martin at Bothwell, and Donohue at Hobart Town. All are said to have competent means but the last, who will use his occupation of law-writing to earn his living. O'Brien was despatched to Maria Island, to be kept under strict guard.

The *Cape* papers of the 1st of January mention the discovery of *a great Lake in the interior of South Africa*, during a journey of exploration by two gentlemen named Murray and Oswall. It is situated in longitude 24° east, latitude 19° south, and its limits appear to have been undiscernible. According to the natives, however, it takes twenty-five days to travel round it. The vegetation on its banks is tropical, and palms are abundant; but it contains no crocodiles, alligators, or hippopotami. It is approached by a river, which for some distance is of small size, and which, as it approaches the lake, becomes as large as the Clyde. The lake itself has no islands in it, but it is said that there are many at the mouth of the river, and that these are densely populated by a race entirely different from those near the borders of the lake. Pelicans are numerous, as also fish, some of which resemble perch and carp, and weigh between 40lb. and 50lb. There are likewise a great number of elephants, although of a much smaller description than those nearer the colony. The natives, whose language was unlike any known dialect spoken by the other tribes in South Africa, appeared to be of an inferior nature, and to be much afflicted with pulmonary disease.

Advices have been received from *Sierra Leone* to the 16th of February. The slave trade was as flourishing as ever, but no blood had been spilt since the engagement in the Gambia. The Cygnet, which brought the accounts, had, during her commission, made nine prizes, and released upwards of 14,000 negroes.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THERE has been another crisis in Paris; but as, on the former occasion, M. Odilon Barrot suddenly departed without leave-taking and the storm quietly subsided, so M. Ferdinand Barrot now as suddenly departs and the adverse powers are propitiated. What more immediately and unequivocally demonstrated the recent discontent was the election of three Socialist candidates for Paris by decisive majorities; wherefrom a stranger might have imagined that the community who could elect such a trio as MM. Carnot, Vidal, and De Flotte, must be prepared straightway to establish a communist *régime*, and reinstate Louis Blanc at the Luxembourg. But this is not at all the intention of the good citizens or soldiers of Paris. They meant no more than to express a disapproval of the ministry, and they have done it most effectually. Half the Socialist voters among them this week might be voters for Absolutism next week, without the least impeachment of their consistency of motive.

The Czar of Russia has published a note against Lord Palmerston on the Greek affair, which has fallen so lamentably flat of its design as to have even done infinite service to its proposed victim. *Quis tulerit Gracchos*, &c. The English people have too much sense not to see the monstrous absurdity of complaint against their minister for enforcing just claims against an inferior state by the physical argument of a blockade, proceeding from a power which has been insolently and aggressively active for the last two years, menacing, bullying, invading, occupying, and (where it was possible) subduing, every country within reach of her armies, no matter how independent, if only sufficiently weak.

From America the news relates chiefly to the proposed enactment on the subject of Slavery, and to the discussions for admission of California as a free State into the Union. Of course the Southerns are intolerant and violent, and have raised their old wolf cry of "civil war." But they are only anticipating by a few years, more or less. It will come upon them some day, without any preparatory cry, "like a thief in the night."

The anniversary of the Revolution of 1848 passed off in Paris on Sunday, the 24th ult., with perfect calm. The weather being fine, there were vast crowds of promenaders on the Boulevards, in the public gardens, the Champs Elysées, and other places of resort; in the Champs Elysées, particularly, the gathering of pedestrians and the display of equipages were larger and more brilliant than have been seen since the fall of the Monarchy. The President of the Republic drove about accompanied only by two attendants in livery, and was everywhere received with demonstrations of pleasure and attachment. A religious ceremony was performed in all the churches of Paris, and a Te Deum was sung; the Archbishop officiating at Notre Dame. The Chamber of the Assembly was illuminated in the evening. During the day there was a crowd of workmen, nearly all attired in their Sunday clothes, around the Column on the Place de la Bastille, and the railing of the column was decked with crowns of *immortelles*.—Some incidents of the following night and next day excited much comment. During the night of the 24th, the wreaths of immortelles which the Republicans had hung on the railing round the Column of Liberty on the Place de la Bastille, in honour of the victims of February or July, were removed by the police. The denizens of the Faubourg St. Antoine, on discovering the removal in the morning, went tumultuously to the Prefecture, remonstrated with the soldiers to whose care the memorials had been confided, and obtained leave to replace them publicly. The re-instatement was conducted with much *éclat*, amidst a large and agitated concourse; the police appearing scarcely willing to sanction the proceeding.

On Sunday, the 10th, about 200 subaltern officers and

soldiers went in procession to the Column of July, and placed crowns of *immortelles* on the graves of the victims of February. This revolutionary manifestation created a great sensation, as showing the strong democratic feeling existing in the army. The soldiers composing the procession belonged to different regiments, and met by appointment for the purpose. Next evening the following proclamation was issued by the prefect of police:—"The authorities have caused to be respected the homage paid to the memory of the dead interred beneath the Column of the Bastille, but for the last few days some manifestations have assumed a character threatening to public tranquillity, and an order has been given to put a stop to them. Emblems of a seditious kind, or which are contrary to the regulations of the police, which may be placed at the foot of that monument, will be removed." Pursuant to the above notice, a strong party of troops went to the Place de la Bastille, with a waggon, and carried off the vast mass of crowns of *immortelles*, flowers, branches of laurel, flags, &c., which had been placed on the railing. Several score of the crowns were afterwards carefully deposited at the foot of the column within the railing, to show that no disrespect to the memory of the dead was intended; and the remainder, having been designed as a political demonstration, were removed. This act caused some agitation among the working population of the Faubourg St. Antoine, but no attempt at resistance was made. During the whole of the morning a large crowd, consisting for the most part of ill-looking fellows, dressed in dingy blouses, assembled on the place, and on the boulevard near to it, but they made no demonstration of any kind. A few extra municipal guards were stationed as sentinels around the column, and about half-a-dozen *sergens de ville* were also on the spot to preserve order.

Contrary to the anticipations of the friends of government, the elections for the department of the Seine have terminated in the triumph of the three Socialist candidates. The blow is a heavy one, and that it was felt to be so was shown by the immediate fall of the funds. The panic, indeed, was universal, and rumours of the most alarming kind were everywhere rife. Military precautions, however, were taken, and nothing occurred to disturb the tranquillity of the capital. The funds also had partially recovered, the price quoted for the Five per Cents. on that day being 92f. 25c. The following is the result of the elections, distinguishing the political faith of the members elected. In the department of the Seine the numbers were: Carnot (Socialist), 132,881; Vidal (S.), 128,317; De Flotte (S), 126,835; Foy (Moderate), 125,673; Lahitte (M.), 125,163; Bonjean (M.), 124,000. It is curious to follow and compare the numbers of votes in the different districts of Paris. About the Tuileries, the Elysée, and the Faubourg St. Honoré, the Conservatives have double the votes of the Democrats. Around the Palais Royal and the Bourse, the Conservatives are one-third superior; in the Faubourg Poissonnière only one-sixth. As we go eastward, towards the quarter of the trading, manufacturing, and labouring classes, the proportion becomes reversed. The two parties are balanced in the quarter of the University and School of Medicine. They are also balanced in the banlieue, or suburbs. One would have expected to see the Democrats considerably ahead in both these districts. Nothing is more remarkable than the great number of votes for the Socialists even in the most wealthy and fashionable quarters. This proves that great numbers of the shopkeepers voted for the Democrats. The votes of the soldiers of the army who are natives of Paris are as follows:—Carnot, 6,699; Vidal, 6,615; De Flotte, 6,553; Foy, 5,378; Lahitte, 5,363; Bonjean, 4,911. The following is the result of the elections in twelve departments:—Moderate candidates: Arriege, General Pelet; Isere, M. Barral; Hautes Pyrenees, M. Goulard; Var, MM. Clapiere and Simeon; Ardeche, M. De la Fourette; Allier, M. Dufour; Cher, MM. Desgranges and Vogué.—Socialist candidates: Bas Rhin, MM. Gerard, Vidal, Valentin, Laboulaye, Hochtulh; Loir et Cher, M. D'Etchegoyen; Nievre, M. Charles Gambon; Haute Vienne, M. Ducoux; Soane et Loire, MM. Esquiros, Madier de Monjau the elder, Charrassin Buvignier, Hennequin, and Dain. So that, on the whole, as far as the returns are completed, seventeen Socialist candidates have been returned, and only nine Moderates. It must, however, be borne in mind that the members thus replaced were all Socialists, and are now paying for their opinions by imprisonment and exile. In consequence of the unfavourable result of the elections, M. Dupin, the President of the Assembly, was summoned on the 14th to advise with the President of the Republic on the state of affairs: and various negotiations were set on foot for the formation of a new ministry. Messrs. Piscatory and Leon Faucher were tempted with office, but they declined to separate from their party. It was believed in well-informed quarters that so soon as the result of the Paris elections was known, the President of the Republic had almost decided on resigning, but that he was dissuaded from doing so by General Changarnier.

An extraordinary case of *Death by Spontaneous Combustion* is related in the *Gazette des Tribunaux*:—A few days ago, in a tavern near the Barriere de l'Etoile, a journeyman painter, named Xavier C——, well known for his intemperate habits, while drinking with some comrades, laid a wager that he would eat a lighted candle. His bet was taken, and scarcely had he introduced the flaming candle into his mouth, when he uttered a slight cry, and fell powerless to the ground. A bluish flame was seen to flicker about his lips, and on an attempt being made to offer him assistance, the bystanders were horror-struck to find that he was burning internally. At the end of half-an-hour his head and the upper part of his chest were reduced to charcoal. Two medical men were called in, and recognised that Xavier had fallen a victim to spontaneous combustion. This conflagration of the human frame is frightfully rapid in its progress; bones, skin, and muscle, all are devoured, consumed, and reduced to ashes. A handful of dust on the spot where the victim fell is all that remains."

According to the last accounts from *Madrid*, a ministerial crisis has been imminent there, arising out of a letter sent by Narvaez to the King Consort, and signed by all the ministers, complaining of his influencing the Queen's mind against them, and of having refused to give them a private audience, and concluding by threatening to employ severe measures. The King replied that he was, constitutionally speaking, nothing more than a Spanish subject, who had nothing to do with the government; but that he had perfect freedom to refuse to receive those whose conversation was disagreeable to him. The ministers upon this, it is said, tendered their resignation, and although it was not formally accepted, yet for twenty-four hours General Narvaez really ceased to be at the head of the cabinet. General Concha and the Marquis of Viluma were sent for by the Queen, who showed the utmost eagerness to comply with the wishes of her husband to turn out the cabinet. Both declared that they would be happy to obey the injunctions of her Majesty, had they the means at their disposal to carry on the government; but that such not being the case, they were obliged to decline, however unwillingly. Affairs, therefore, remain *in statu quo*. The diligence, which left Madrid for Seville on the 8th, was stopped the following day by eight men on horseback, and well armed, who pillaged it in the most deliberate manner, taking two-and-a half hours about the work, notwithstanding it being in the middle of the day, and there being detachments of civil guards at both the places above-mentioned. General Blaser was one of the passengers, the whole of whom lost their money, watches, and clothes; and the Granada diligence, coming up directly afterwards, shared the same fate.

A new league has been entered into by the Kings of *Wurtemberg, Saxony, and Bavaria*, having for its object to dispose summarily of the affairs of Germany. It was signed on the 28th ult. Hanover has not yet consented to join the league, on account of certain differences of opinion between Hanover and Austria on the subject of the propositions respecting the German

constitution on which Austria, Bavaria, and Wurtemberg are already agreed. Austria stands up for a single chamber to represent the interests of Germany. She offers to make the greatest sacrifices, and proposes to join the confederation with all her provinces, with the exception of those of Italy. She demands a Diet of 300 members, in which she proposes to represent the 33,000,000 of Austrians by 100 members, the 16,000,000 of Prussians by another 100, and the 17,000,000 of inhabitants of smaller states by the third hundred. In the Directory of seven votes Austria claims but a single vote.

The *Parliament at Erfurt* was formally opened on the 20th instant, by Baron Radowitz, with a speech sketching the position of Germany; telling how some governments hang back from adherence to the German Parliament, and how Hanover and Saxony have seceded; and concluding with the announcement, that impeachments have been preferred against Hanover and Saxony.

From *Athens* there is intelligence of the cessation of the blockade.—On the evening of the 1st inst. Mr. Green, the English consul at Athens, issued a circular announcing that the British government, having good hopes of obtaining a satisfactory settlement of their demands on the Greek government, through the good offices of the government of the French republic, had given orders to Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to suspend, for a reasonably limited period of time, the coercive action of her Majesty's squadron, but, nevertheless, to retain the Greek vessels actually in his possession, as pledges in deposit, until a final arrangement shall have been made. Orders had consequently been given by Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to allow for the present the free ingress and egress of all vessels not actually in possession of her Majesty's squadron. On the 2nd inst., M. Thouvenel wrote to Mr. Wyse, proposing that Sir William Parker should give up the Greek ships in his possession, and that he, the representative of the French republic, would guarantee the payment of the claims of her Majesty's government on Greece. Mr. Wyse, in reply, regretted his inability to comply with M. Thouvenel's proposition. M. le Gros arrived on the morning of the 5th, and immediately had an interview with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Letters received from the British fleet in the Piræus mention a fatal accident to Lieutenant Breen, and part of a crew under his command, on the 31st of January. Lieutenant Breen, and Mr. Chatfield, midshipman, with sixteen men, were returning from the shore to the Ganges in a boat laden with water; they were swamped by the rough sea, and their boat turned over just halfway between the ship Queen and the east point of the island of Lypso. Mr. Breen, Mr. Chatfield, and most of the men, immediately struck out for the island, and reached it. The gale increased, and the cold became so intense that their clothes were frozen stiff upon them. In the morning they could see the fleet, but were unable to catch attention by signals. One of the men suffered so much from the cold, that Lieutenant Breen generously stripped off his coat and put it over him. As the day closed, most of the men retired into a cave; but Mr. Breen separated himself from the others, and was no more seen. On board the Ganges it was thought they had not put off from shore; but next night it was known that they *had* set out, and a boat was sent to search. As it was passing by the island of Lypso at dawn of the third day, the wrecked boat was accidentally descried on the beach. Mr. Chatfield and half-a-dozen men were found in the cave, in a torpid state; Mr. Breen was found dead, crouched under a bush; and ten seamen are missing. There is little doubt that poor Mr. Breen lost his life from his generous act in favour of the suffering seaman. The survivors found in the cave have all recovered.

Letters from *Constantinople* of the 15th ult. state that the Sultan's ministers, after consulting with the French and English ministers, proposed to the Austrian internuncio that the Hungarian refugees should be detained in the interior of Asia Minor for a period not exceeding twelve months. Count Sturmer agreed to refer the matter to Vienna. The blockade of Greece had continued to excite great interest in Constantinople. The Turks were in favour of Mr. Wyse's conduct, and a small fleet had moved out in the Propontis, intended for the coast of Greece—not exactly to co-operate with Sir W. Parker, but to act on account of the Porte, who has also claims on Greece. Private letters from the Piræus, of the 18th ult., state that the fleet under the command of Sir W. Parker was still in the Bay of Salamis, and that Mr. Wyse was on board the Queen.

The cold in *Turkey* has lately been intense. One hundred and fifty-eight persons have been frozen to death, the greater number in their own houses, in Constantinople and its environs. At Gallipoli twenty-three persons, and at Smyrna seventeen, shared the same fate. Fifteen persons were found frozen to death on board a Turkish vessel, and eight fishermen were found dead from the same cause in their boat on the Bosphorus. The temperature was 13 degrees (Reaumur); but these fatal occurrences are explained by the very slight construction of the houses, the want of warm covering, as well as bad food. In the interior provinces the misery has been very great. The latter have been left uncared for, and the sufferings both of men and beasts have been very great.

A case of *Jewish Martyrdom* has recently occurred in Morocco. The details are given in a letter from Mr. A. Sebag, a Jewish merchant, residing in Castle-street, St. Mary-Axe, and whose brother was the victim. It appears that Judah Sebag, a Jewish merchant, who resided in a town called Alig, near Mogador, was maliciously accused of having spoken blasphemy against the Mahomedan faith. The cause of this malice was the jealousy of some Mahomedan merchants. He was dragged before the governor, or rather the chief magistrate of the city, whose name is Lechusman Ben Hassam. The evidence against him having been heard, the sentence of the judge was, that he either must embrace Mahomedanism or be burned to death. Judah Sebag indignantly refused to deny his religion, and chose the alternative—death. The governor immediately ordered a large fire to be made, into which the man was thrown, and soon devoured by the flames. He was but twenty-four years of age.

The principal article of intelligence from the *United States* relates to discussions in Congress on the slavery question.

The admission of California, and its previous question, the slavery difficulty, were under full debate in both divisions of the legislature. In the House of Representatives, many days had been spent in heated argument on a resolution by Mr. Doty to admit California as she is—that is, with a constitution denouncing slavery. The Southern speakers had, as usual, been profuse in declarations that the Union was imperilled, and that civil war was imminent; but the resolution had been withdrawn, and an express bill had been introduced; and, in the prospect of a fresh debate on the whole subject, there was a lull in the excitement. In the Senate, Mr. Henry Clay's compromise resolutions, and a number of amendments, were still under debate. The leader of the South, Mr. Calhoun, had registered his opposition; but he had become so weak, from disease of the lungs, that he could no longer take personal share in debate, and an oration against Mr. Clay's resolutions, characterised by Calhoun's brilliancy and ingenuity, was read for him by a brother senator, on the 4th.

It has been rumoured in Washington, that a difficulty had been caused in the cabinet by Mr. Clayton's negotiation with Sir Henry Bulwer on the Nicaraguan question, which was disapproved of. It was said that Mr. Clayton had tendered his resignation, but that President Taylor had returned it to him.

A fortnight's later news from California—to the 15th January—communicates a great calamity: the valley of Sacramento had been deeply flooded over its whole extent, and the town of the same name had been wholly destroyed; one house, built on raised poles, alone remained. The loss of property is calculated at 1,000,000 dollars, including immense herds of cattle; no loss of life is mentioned.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE elevation of Lord Campbell to the highest seat of Common Law magistracy should not pass without recognition from the class to which he once belonged. This distinguished lawyer began his career as a member of the public press, and has never lost sight of its interests, or ceased to refer with pride to his former participation in them. His most important legislative act was the amendment of the law of libel as more particularly affecting newspapers; and it is not many months since he made the ingenuous avowal, that he would rather have the fame of a poem of Pope's, than the highest reputation obtainable in Westminster Hall. It is this catholic appreciation of merit in other liberal pursuits, and this generous tone of ambition, hardly less than great qualities as a lawyer, diversified power of application, and shrewd general knowledge of the world, which mark him out for that higher duty than a mere black-letter lawyer could ever satisfactorily discharge, of presiding over the English Common Law, and giving tone to the practice of the bar, as well as dignity to the bench. How remarkable in this respect was his predecessor! What a dignity he imparted to the profession itself by his learning and courage, by his firmness and impartiality, by his high sense of honour, and scrupulous regard for truth. Through even occasional errors of perhaps hasty judgment, what a uniform and noble contempt there shone for everything mean or unworthy. Lord Denman's fame as a lawyer has been eclipsed by many less distinguished men; but there was a moral majesty in the character of his mind, which pervaded all its manifestations. The noble features of his face expressed it, as well as the grand yet sweet expression of his voice. His spirit never rose to such heights of unfaltering boldness as at what seemed the approach of danger; and in times more remarkable for greatness than our own, he would have carried off yet greater distinction.

The most remarkable publication of the past month has been the new, revised, and greatly enlarged edition of Dr. Lingard's *History of England*. It is in ten octavo volumes; and the additions relate chiefly to the reigns of Henry the Eighth and Elizabeth, and to the efforts of Catholicity, after the Commonwealth, to resist the penal laws, and retrieve some part of its losses consequent on the Reformation. This book now takes its place in the literature of England as the Roman Catholic exposition of her history. There is as little doubt of the merits and claims of the author, as that the leanings of his profession are plainly discernible wherever circumstances call them forth. So long as nothing brings in question the faith and heroism of his church, there is no guide that may be followed more implicitly through a dark and doubtful period. But let his professional partiality be once engaged, and infallibly the reader will rise from his *History*, be the matter in question what it will, with a much stronger bias to particular views than he will even be conscious to have derived from the historian. The tact of Dr. Lingard amounts to genius. You think he is most candid at the very times when that quality is most absent in him. His air of dispassionateness seems to cool the most burning heats, while it is all the while fanning and increasing them. So much by way of warning against a book, which may not be consulted without danger, yet cannot without loss be put aside, by any student of the English history.

Another important publication of the month has been the additional instalment of two volumes of Mr. Grote's *History of Greece*, bringing down this great work to the period of the death of Socrates. These volumes are chiefly remarkable for the new use to which the great history by Thucydides is applied, and for the original views that are taken of the position and teaching of the Athenian sophists.

The other leading books of the month have been of a slighter kind; but not deficient either in value or interest. They comprise a series of clever and graceful sketches of *Woman in France in the Eighteenth Century*, by Miss Kavanagh; a vivid picture of the late war in Hungary, in *Memoirs of a Hungarian Lady* by Madame Pulzsky; two skilful novels, though of qualities opposite as their subjects,—the one a tale of domestic life, called *Pride and Irresolution*, the other a romance of the irruption of the barbarians into Rome, called *Antonina;* and, finally, a little volume of useful hints on questions of parliamentary conduct and reform, entitled *A Career in the Commons*.

To this latter political treatise another, of notable merit, may be added before closing our brief review. This is a somewhat remarkable pamphlet by a practical political economist, Mr. Warde Norman, of which the object is to prove, by an *Examination of some prevailing Opinions as to the Pressure of Taxation in this and other Countries*, first, that a certain amount of state-taxation less seriously impedes the progress of the general prosperity than is commonly supposed; secondly, that the fuller expenditure and consequent taxation of Great Britain will fairly bear comparison with that of other large civilised countries, comparative wealth and resources being taken in account; and, thirdly, that the prevailing opinion of the prodigal expenditure of the British government, in proportion to the results obtained, or tested by the expenditure of other great and civilised countries for similar purposes, is capable of disproof. Of course, the general basis of these comparisons is relative power to bear taxation; but the knowledge brought to the illustration of the subject is worthy of attention, and the results are really striking. It is at least proved by the writer that the Continental countries have fewer advantages, in respect to taxation, than have been, without due investigation, generally attributed to them.

Her Majesty's Theatre opened on the 12th, with the *Medea* of Mayer, the heroine being performed by Mdlle. Parodi, and a ballet called *Les Metamorphoses*, in which the favourite Carlotta Grisi appeared. The house was fully and fashionably attended. On the 21st, Mr. Sims Reeves made a successful début in the character of *Ernani*.

The Royal Italian Opera at Covent Garden, opened on the 16th, with an Italian version of the *Freischutz*. Herr Formes was the *Caspar*, and Madame Castellan the *Agatha*. This theatre, also, was quite full.

An elegant little piece, called *The Poet's Slave*, founded on the French comedy of *L'Esclave de Camoens*, has been produced at the *Olympic* with success. It is from the pen of Mrs. Seymour, who plays the part of the heroine.

A piece, called *The Vicar of Wakefield*, has been performed at the *Strand* theatre, and two dramatists have been disputing about its authorship; a thing not worth disputing about, Goldsmith's novel having already been dramatised by Thomas Dibdin and others.

Much Ado About Nothing was performed at the *Haymarket* on the 11th, for the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. Kean; the Queen and Prince Albert being present. They also honoured with their presence the benefit of Mdlle. Charton, on the 13th, at the *St. James's*, when Auber's opera of *Le Maçon* was performed.

The Philharmonic Society commenced its thirty-eighth series of annual performances on the 4th. The concert was of the usual degree of excellence. Miss Louisa Pyne made her first appearance before the Philharmonic audience, and went through this severe ordeal very successfully. The second concert was on the 18th.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of March 1. THOMAS ATKINSON, Liverpool, slater.—JOHN BELBIN, Beaumont-street, St. Marylebone, coachmaker.—JOHN DEOHN DATHAN, Cannon-street-road, ironmonger. JOHN FAWCETT, Hull, timber merchant.—JABEZ HUNT, Bath, victualler.—RICHARD LANGLEY, Old Paradise-row, Islington, licensed victualler.—BERNARD MARTINELLI, Frederick-street, Regent's-park, and Nottingham-mews, Marylebone, coachmaker. —LUCIUS THEODORE SABINE, Weymouth, Dorsetshire, ironmonger.—JOHN HARDINGE VEITCH, Durham, printer.—JOHN KING WATTS, St. Ives, Huntingdonshire, scrivener.

March 5. JAMES BROOKS, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, victualler.—JOSEPH CHAWNER, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, grocer. —JOSEPH DOWNHAM, Harrogate, Yorkshire, wine merchant.—CHARLES THOMAS GLOVER, Manchester, smallware dealer.—EDWARD HODGES, Swinford, Leicestershire, surgeon.—JOHN LA GUERRANDE, Liverpool, merchant.—WILLIAM LIVERMORE, Oxford-street, ironmonger.—ROBERT PARKER, Nottingham, commission agent.—JOSEPH PURSSELL, Wellington-street, Waterloo-town, and Mile-end New-town, Bethnal-green, butcher.—GEORGE SMITH, Cumberland-row, King's-cross, Battle-bridge, cheesemonger.—HENRY TITFORD, Worship-square, engraver.

March 8. JOHN BREARLEY, Lowerby-bridge, near Halifax, Yorkshire, timber merchant.—ROBERT BROWN, Howden, Yorkshire, tailor.—CHARLES BURGIN, Sheffield, steel manufacturer.—CHARLES CHRISTIE, Vauxhall-walk, and Broad-street, Lambeth, timber merchant.—JAMES WIGG HICKLING, Montague-close, Southwark, wharfinger.—THOMAS LONG, Belgrave-street south, Pimlico, picture dealer.—ROBERT PARKER, Nottingham, commission agent.—WILLIAM HENRY SWINTON, South-street, Finsbury, merchant.—EDWARD UNDERHILL, Radnor-cottage, Chelsea, builder.

March 12. GEORGE FREDERICK GARDENER, Rayleigh, Essex, grocer.—JAMES HARDCASTLE, Manchester, tavern-keeper.—JAMES SIMPSON HOLMES, Liverpool, merchant.—SAMUEL PARKHOUSE, Cambridge, maker and vender of medicines for horses and cattle.—WILLIAM AMY SHEMAN, Rugeley, Staffordshire, builder.—THOMAS WILLIAMS, Epsom, Surrey, draper.

March 15. MATTHEW BATTEM, Kintbury, Berkshire, sheep dealer.—PETER FIELDING, Rhyl, Flintshire, hotel keeper.—SAMUEL FIRTH, Leeds, linendrapers.—THOMAS GARRETT, Stowmarket, Suffolk, coachmaker.—JAMES HARBRIDGE, Islip, Oxfordshire, miller.—JOHN M'GUFFIE, New-road, Whitechapel, draper. —GEORGE PALMER, Langmere, Norfolk, cattle dealer.—BENJAMIN SMITH, Threadneedle-street, City; Bow-common; and Duke-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, silversmith.

March 19. JOHN BARTON BALCOMBE, Cannon-street, City, sharebroker.—JOHN BEDFORD, Bath, music seller.—CHARLES COVE, Hornchurch, Essex, builder.—WILLIAM GORE, Liverpool, wheelwright.—JAMES HARRIDGE, Islip, Oxfordshire, miller.—JOHN SPICER, Barking, Essex, blacksmith.

March 22. THOMAS BRETHERTON, Birmingham, livery stable keeper.—PETER BROAD, junior, Brighton, tallow chandler.—ROBERT DODD, Sheerness, builder.—JOHN GOULDESBROUGH, Manchester, manufacturer.—JOHN LLOYD, New Oxford-street, hosier.

March 26. WILLIAM BILBY, Essex-place, Grange-road, Dalston, warehouseman.—GEORGE EVERHARD, Longton, Staffordshire, earthenware manufacturer.—JAMES HILEY, South-street, Finsbury, private boarding-house keeper.—JOHN WATSON, and ROBERT YOUNG WATSON, Sunderland, ship builders.

March 29. SAMUEL WROTH ANTHONY, Everton, Lancashire, shipowner.—WILLIAM BENJAMIN BLABER, Little-Britain, City, plumber.—JAREZ BOWYER, Borcham, Wiltshire, miller.—JOHN BYMER, Oswestry, Salop, grocer.—WILLIAM CHADWICK, Manchester, paper manufacturer.—THOMAS BAGLEY COUSENS, Wisbeach, St. Peter's, Cambridgeshire, ship builder.—JOHN CROOME, Bristol, manufacturing engineer.—WILLIAM ELLISON, Stainsby-road, Poplar, builder.—ROBERT GODSMARK, jun., Crosby-row, Walworth-road, grocer.—CORNELIUS HARNESS and EDWARD BISLEY, Aldermanbury, City, warehousemen.—MARY LEVI, JULIA LEVI, and ESTHER LEVI, Liverpool, stationers.—JOHN STOLLE and WILLIAM HODGSON, Christian-street, St. George's-in-the-East, vinegar makers.—JOSEPH ROBINSON, High Holborn, bookseller.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

Feb. 28.—WILLIAM HALE, Woolwich, rocket manufacturer.

March 5.—GEORGE FORDHAM BLOW, Great Dover-street, Newington, Surrey, currier.

March 7.—ANGUS NICHOLSON, Bowling, Yorkshire, builder.

THE STOCK AND SHARE MARKETS.

City, March 28.

The stock markets during the month have shown a strong disposition to improve, but various causes, chiefly foreign and of a political character, have combined to check any upward movement. Last month closed with Consols at 94⅞ to 95, and the market remained steady and gradually requiring strength, till the 12th, when the price marked 95⅞, but shortly after it became much weaker, gradually falling to 95¼, chiefly owing to the apprehensions raised by the accounts of the excited state of Paris, consequent upon the election of the Socialist candidates. Since then prices have been looking up again, and to-day's quotation is 95⅞ to 96.

Railway shares during the greater part of the month were depressed, and prices underwent a further fall, but within the last ten days more confidence has been shown, and the market is now a good deal steadier for the majority of lines, though without activity in the dealings.

STOCKS.

	Prices during the Month.		
	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols	96⅜	94⅞	95⅝
Three per Cent. Reduced	96⅜	94⅜	shut
Three and a quarter per Cents.	99	97½	shut
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860	8⅝	8 9/16	shut
Bank Stock	210	206	210
India Stock	268	265	266
South Sea Stock	106½	104¾	shut
Exchequer Bills	67*s.* prm.	54*s.* prm.	66*s.* prm.
India Bonds	89*s.* prm.	84*s.* prm.	89*s.* prm.

RAILWAYS.

Paid.		Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
100	Bristol and Exeter	68½	62	67½
50	Caledonian	11¾	8½	9
20	Eastern Counties	7½	6⅞	7¼
22	Great Northern	8¼	7¼	7¼
100	Great North of England	225	220	220
100	Great Western	60¼	55	55
50	Hull and Selby	97½	96	96
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	50	34½	34½
50	Leeds and Bradford	99	97½	29
100	London and Brighton	80½	78¼	80
100	London and North Western	107	101¾	104½
100	London and S. Western	65	61½	63
100	Midland	40½	38½	38¼
17½	North Staffordshire	7½	6	7½
33⅓	South Eastern	18¾	13¾	14½
25	York, Newcastle, and Berwick	15	13	13⅜
50	York and North Midland	18⅛	16¼	16¼

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, March 26.

The market for English wheat has been very steady during the month, with scarcely any fluctuation in prices, the supplies from the counties being rather small, and consequently taken as soon as offered. In foreign wheat scarcely anything has been done till within the last week, when the demand has slightly improved. The London averages last announced are:—

Wheat, per quarter, 42*s.* 5*d.*
Barley, 24*s.* 4*d.*
Oats, 16*s.* 7*d.*
Rye, 22*s.* 5*d.*
Beans, 24*s.* 5*d.*
Peas, 25*s.* 1*d.*
Flour, Town made, delivered, per 280 lbs., 36*s.* to 38*s.*
American, per 196 lbs., 20*s.* to 23*s.*

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt.—Waterford, 46*s.* to 48*s.*; Belfast, 40*s.* to 42*s.*
Beef, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*
Butter, per cwt., New, 116*s.*; Dorset, 60*s.* to 70*s.*; Friesland, 92*s.* to 94*s.*; Fresh, per lb., 8*d.* to 11*d.*
Cheese, per cwt., Cheshire, 42*s.* to 74*s.*; Wiltshire, double, 50*s.* to 58*s.*; Old Edam (Dutch), 44*s.* to 46*s.*
Eggs, English, per 120, 6*s.* 3*d.*; Irish, 4*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 9*d.*
Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 74*s.* to 84*s.*; Irish, 82*s.* to 86*s.*; Westphalia, 62*s.* to 66*s.*
Lamb, per 8 lbs., 5*s.* 4*d.*
Mutton, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.*
Potatoes, per ton.—Yorkshire Prince Regent's, 80*s.* to 110*s.*; Scotch Reds, 65*s* to 70*s.*; Common Whites, 60*s.*
Pork, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
Veal, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.*

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt.—Grenada, 37*s.* to 42*s.*
Coffee, per cwt.—Good Mocha, 72*s.* to 74*s.*; good ord. native Ceylon, 52*s.* to 52*s.* 6*d.*; Bahia, 53*s.* to 60*s.*
Rice, per cwt.—Carolina, 21*s.* to 26*s.*; Bengal, 9*s.* 6*d.* to 11*s.* 6*d.*
Sago, per cwt.—Pearl, 20*s.* to 24*s.*
Sugar, per cwt.—Brown lumps, 48*s.* 6*d.* to 51*s.*; good brown Jamaica, 36*s.* to 37*s.*; Brazil white, 43*s.* to 48*s.*
Tea, per lb.—Common Congou, 9½*d.* to 10*d.*; full flavoured Souchong, 1*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.*; Hyson, 1*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*

Candles, per 12 lbs., 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*; Coals, per ton, Wallsend, 14*s.* to 17*s.* 6*d.*

OILS.

Pale Seal, per ton 39*l.* 10*s.*
Sperm, 82*l.*
Olive, Gallipoli, per ton, 50*l.*
Cod, 30*l.* to 31*l.*

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Monthly Supplement to "*HOUSEHOLD WORDS*," *Conducted by CHARLES DICKENS.*

THE

HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE

OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1850.] FROM THE 30TH MARCH TO THE 26TH APRIL.* [PRICE 2*d.*

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

ENGLISHMEN are said to begin whatever they have to say, by talking about the weather. As the weather has a very material influence on the condition and prospects of the "Three Kingdoms," in the changing month of April, we need offer no apology for availing ourselves of an Englishman's privilege in commencing our account of it.

For, in Spring, as we all know, the first indications of good or bad harvests present themselves. Upon these, a vast deal nationally depends,—prosperity or depression; wealth or want; employment or idleness; mercantile activity, or commercial stagnation. In politics, also, "our agricultural prospects" have their influence. A bad harvest surrounds the minister with accumulating difficulties, while a good one smooths many away. It is said of an ex-premier, who has been at the head of affairs more than once, that when called upon to deliberate on taking office, he is guided less by the aspect of what is called "the political horizon," than by the state of the barometer. He calculates that if there be a reasonable chance of excellent crops, there is a corresponding probability of the people being good-humoured. It is astonishing how a man's mind clears up with the weather; and how it darkens (on such subjects as the Income Tax, and other trifles of that nature) with the sky.

Happily, the month's accounts from almost every part of the country give hope of an abundant season. A dry seed-time was followed by an unusually cold and nipping frost during March, which, though retarding vegetation, kept it from peering above ground to be bitten and blighted. April was ushered in with storms, the disastrous effects of which on shipping we have to record,—but the genial weather which followed, was only interrupted by heavy showers, much required for irrigation after the long drought. An unusual amount of electricity discharged itself on two occasions in severe thunderstorms. Upon the whole, vegetation promises unusually well. And, as things run on smoothly with the human, as with the equine race, when it can command abundance of corn, we are happy in the prospect before us.

Plenty, however, so advantageous to the buyer, is, according to protectionist theories, a bane to the seller. Indeed, it is so, unless means of production are multiplied by skill, energy, and industry, in an inverse ratio to the diminution of prices. It has yet to be seen, whether the downward tendencies in the price of farm produce will be met by the farmer so as to decrease "the agricultural difficulty" which still exists.

The emigration movement has not slumbered, and is making head vigorously, as the season advances. Vast numbers of persons have recently departed from Ireland, chiefly to the United States. The public, at length awakened to a sense of the vast magnitude of the subject, and to its immeasurable benefits,—both to those who go abroad, and to those who remain at home,—are beginning to bestir themselves out of doors. Attention is universally directed to our great Australian colonies, but it rests with the public, still, to enforce upon the Government and Legislature the necessity of a careful, comprehensive, liberal scheme of popular emigration, and of a system of regulations for the health, comfort, and happiness of emigrants. There is no question of importance to the community, which is not included in this question. Its vital interest to every man who has the least care for the welfare of his country, and the progress of his race, cannot be exaggerated.

The lamentable intellectual wants of a vast proportion of the humbler classes have occasioned during the month much solicitude and discussion. These are due chiefly to Mr. Fox, member for Oldham, whose educational Bill—to extend the means of instruction to all sects and classes—has excited much wholesome and energetic agitation throughout the more *thinking* districts of the country; by which we mean the districts where men think, and act. It is striking, but discouraging, to note the contrast between the manner in which such comprehensive educational projects as that of Mr. Fox are met by the practical men of action in the manufacturing districts, and by the passive theorists of the House of Commons. But, in the manufacturing districts, they know the danger, and the monstrous ignorance and degradation lying at the base of all society; and in the House of Commons they do not,—yet. The party-walls of that building are extremely thick, and keep out a great deal of social knowledge.

Our record of party politics presents features of vicissitude, and therefore of interest. April has been (as Francis Moore, physician, might have predicted, if he had foreseen it,) a disastrous month in the ministerial calendar. In the first week of the meeting of parliament after the Easter holidays, the Cabinet had to endure, in the House of Commons, three defeats,—two positive, and one comparative: and, shortly after, a fourth. On a motion, having for its object improvement in the status and accommodation of Assistant-Surgeons on board her Majesty's ships, ministers were placed in a minority equal to eight votes. On the measure for extending the jurisdiction of County Courts, to which they were not disposed to agree, they voted with a minority, which numbered 67 against 144 votes. These were the positive defeats; the comparative one arose out of a motion to abolish the window tax. Against this the Cabinet made some effort, but its supporters only mustered in sufficient strength to afford a majority of three. Their last disaster was in a committee on the New Stamp Duties Bill.

* It will be remembered by the readers of the preliminary announcement of this Supplement, that it is intended that numbers of the "Household Narrative of Current Events" for the months of January, February, and March, shall be published, at convenient intervals in time to complete the volume for the year. This is the explanation of the first page of the present number being page 73.

Whoever rejoices, or whoever grieves, at these evidences of ministerial declension, cannot fail to observe that the present government has not only evinced, but acted on, a desire for economy. Whether impelled by the pressure from without of the "Financial Reformers," or by a deeply-rooted conviction that the salaries of many of his colleagues in various departments are too great, Lord John Russell has obtained a committee to inquire into the emoluments of certain state officers with a view to reduction. This committee is constituted fairly, and includes Mr. Cobden, and his platform colleague Mr. Bright.

The Bill for the abolition of intramural interments will be considered in a committee of the whole House, next month. The Report on which this Bill is founded, is one of the most remarkable public documents that have ever appeared in England. It would be impossible to illustrate more impressively the deplorable condition into which we have insensibly lapsed, in respect of our disposal of the dead—the shocking indecorum, the waste of means and life, the diffusion of sickness, pestilence, misery, and want attendant on our present burial customs. To assert the awe and sanctity of Death; to separate the dead from the living; to surround death, among the poor and wretched, with humanising and not hardening influences; to respect the ashes of the humblest sharer in the common lot; is the lesson that it teaches. This is the end of the legislative measure founded upon it. It may be retarded by weak, mercenary, or bigoted opposition; but it would be to doubt the sense, the decency, and human feeling, of the country, to doubt its ultimate attainment.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

Very little business has been transacted in the House of Peers during the month. The House met after the Easter recess on Thursday 11th, sat half-an-hour to hear some bills read from the Commons, and adjourned.

On Friday 12th, Lord Campbell introduced a bill for the better *Regulation of Special Pleadings*.—Earl Grey then moved the third reading of the *Convict Prisons Bill*. Lord Stanley dwelt especially on the danger of staving off that which is inevitable, a thorough revision of our secondary-punishment system.—Transportation, said Lord Monteagle, must be placed upon a new footing altogether: it must be made acceptable to the colonists themselves, which it cannot be without free institutions.—Earl Grey combated what he conceived to be the extravagant objections to transportation; the prosperity, nay the free emigration to Australia, are both the creation of transportation; but the system of labour-gangs at so great a distance has proved a failure. To that he ascribed the frightful evils alleged against transportation; and prospectively, but not very distinctly, he foreshadowed some system of which the penal part should be accomplished at home, while a more extensive employment would be found for convict-labour in the Colonies.—The bill was read a third time and passed.

On Monday 15th the Bishop of London declared his intention to bring forward a bill to establish *a Court of Appeal for the Clergy*, to supersede such appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The proposed court would be, he said, a strictly clerical tribunal.

On Thursday 18th the *Pirates' Head Money Repeal Bill* was brought forward by the Marquis of Lansdowne for the second reading. It was not intended to deprive parties engaged in the capture or destruction of pirate vessels of all reward, but to reward them according to the value of their services.—Lord Ellenborough commented severely on the recent actions with pirates on the coast of Borneo, which he stigmatised as military executions; and gave notice, that when the bill passed into committee, he should move to substitute for one of the present clauses a new clause, the effect of which would be to give the same power of conferring rewards on those engaged with pirates on shore, which was now granted to those engaged with pirates at sea.—The Earl of Ellesmere defended Sir James Brooke, whose conduct in Borneo entitled him to rank among the heroes of civilisation. He had little doubt that Borneo would soon become a flourishing settlement.—Lord Ellenborough reiterated his statement respecting the natives of Borneo, and declared that what was termed piracy only amounted to international war. Labuan was utterly useless to England.—Earl Grey declared that the natives were determined pirates, whose expeditions were a terror to all who traded in the Indian Archipelago. So far from Labuan being a failure, it appeared that 120 town allotments had been disposed of; while the entire amount of revenue estimated for the current year had been realised during the month of January alone.—The bill was read a second time.

A debate on *The Abuses of the Irish Poor Law* arose on Friday 19th, in consequence of a petition presented by the Marquis of Westmeath, relative to Carrick-on-Shannon. In illustration of the working of the law, his lordship referred to certain proceedings taken against himself without the smallest legal notification, by which a demand of rates amounting to 33*l.* was swelled to 77*l.* by costs. He concluded by moving for a committee to inquire into the subject-matter of the petition.—The Marquis of Lansdowne did not deny that abuses had crept into the administration of the poor law in particular unions, but he did not think sufficient grounds had been made out for inquiry—Lord Stanley thought the reverse. The grossest abuses had prevailed for months in the union to which the petition referred, and he thought their lordships would not fulfil their duty if they refused inquiry.—The Marquis of Lansdowne withdrew his opposition to the appointment of a committee, in consequence of what Lord Stanley had stated, and the motion was agreed to.

On the 22nd, the Duke of Richmond obtained a select committee to inquire into the evasions of the act for preventing the importation, with foreign cattle, of infectious diseases.

The Door-Keepers of the House came in for a share of its attention on Tuesday 23rd. The report of the committee on the fees and emoluments of parliamentary officers, was laid on the table by its chairman, the Duke of Richmond, who mentioned some curious facts respecting the door-keepers. During four years the minimum receipts of one of them ranged from 401*l.* to 772*l.* per annum; and during four maximum years, from 884*l.* to 2570*l.* per annum. Yet this very gentleman, while incapacitated by age from performing his simple duties, employed another person, who did it well for 150*l.* a year. Fees were paid to the door-keepers, not only by peers, editors of newspapers, and the East India Company; but the Society of Friends—for what reason his Grace knew not—paid five pounds a year to the door-keepers of that House.

The Earl of Malmesbury then moved for a *Return of Corn* imported since 1st January last, and of the average price since that period.—The Duke of Richmond warned the House not to drive the British farmer "to desperation."—The Marquis of Lansdowne expressed his belief that the present low prices were exceptional.—Lord Stanley on the other hand declared his conviction that they were not exceptional but permanent.—The returns were ordered.

Business was commenced, when the House of Commons met after the Easter recess, on Monday the 8th, by Captain Boldero, who directed attention to the disabilities endured by the *Assistant-Surgeons in the Navy*. They nominally rank as lieutenants in the army or

first lieutenants of marines, but are excluded from the ward-room and from the society of their equal officers, and put into the cock-pit. "Then," said the captain, "where is the cock-pit? Why, in the hold of a ship, where the sun never penetrates, where the only light afforded is by lamps or candles, where an impure atmosphere constantly prevails, where it was impossible to study, for study could not be carried on in the midst of middies fond of larking and full of fun!" The schoolmaster, the engineer, his assistant, and even boatswains and carpenters have each a separate room.—The resolution was opposed by Admiral Dundas, because there are plenty of applicants for the place of assistant-surgeons in our navy under the existing arrangement; and secondly, that the proposed alteration is impracticable. When the House divided, ministers found themselves in a minority; for 48 voted with Captain Boldero, and 40 against him.—Sir Francis Baring afterwards remarked, that the wish of the House was one thing, and the practicability of the resolution another; and he feared that it could not be carried out with advantage to the service. The ward-room of each ship was already fully crammed with officers entitled to use it.

The House then resolved itself into a *Committee of Supply*, when Colonel Sibthorp proposed to reduce the number of lords of the Admiralty from six to four; and that their salaries, and those of their secretaries, and other officers in that department, should be curtailed so as to effect a saving of 7,100*l.* a year.—Sir F. Baring contended that the number of the lords was not disproportioned to the mass of detailed business to be superintended, and that their salaries should be left to the consideration of the committee upon public salaries.—Upon this, Colonel Sibthorp restricted his motion to the reduction of two lords, which, upon a division, was negatived by 110 to 33.

Mr. Hume sought to retrench the vote of 689,971*l.* for home naval establishments by the 10,000*l.* for drilling the dockyard artificers. He too was beaten by 66 to 15.

On Tuesday the 9th, the *Repeal of the Window Duty* was brought under notice by Lord Duncan. When, he said, the deleterious effects of this tax upon the public health is so notorious, it seemed a mockery to have dwelt so strongly on sanitary measures in the Queen's speech unless ministers had intended to abolish the tax upon the light of Heaven. The Health of Towns Association had pronounced it "more vicious in principle, more injurious in its practical consequences, than a tax on food." If the 100,000*l.* a-year voted for the impossible endeavour to suppress the Slave trade on the coasts of Africa were saved, there would be no necessity for taxing houses containing fewer than fourteen windows.—Sir Charles Wood said, the tax already presses as lightly on the poor as possible. Out of 3,500,000 houses, it is only paid by 500,000 of the better class of houses; and even for those the duty is ultimately paid by the capital of the landlord in reduction of rent, rather than by the tenant. The superiority of the dwellings of the poor in England over those in Ireland, where the tax does not exist, refutes, according to Sir Charles, much of the sanitary argument. The exemption of all houses having fewer than twelve windows would cost, not 100,000*l.* but 250,000*l.*—the duty now received from such houses.—Sir George Pechell recalled the fact, that since 1835, five Chancellors of the Exchequer have promised to "consider" this subject, and not one has considered it in the way the public voice requires.—Lord Robert Grosvenor was obliged to tell the Government, that after the Commissions issued by them, which without exception have recommended the abrogation of the tax, their refusal to mitigate or moderate amounts to a great loss of character on their part.—When the House divided, there were for the motion, 77; against it, 80; Ministerial majority, 3. The announcement of numbers drew hearty cheers from the minority.

[Subsequently Sir George Pechell's annual return of the window-duties was printed. It shows that the amount assessed in the year ending on the 5th, was 1,893,988*l.*, and the net amount received was 1,813,629*l.* The number of houses charged, 487,411.]

The County Courts Extension Bill came on for second reading on Wednesday 10th. It was opposed by Ministers and a portion of the Protectionist party.—Sir George Grey advised caution. The sum to be sued for in these courts was now limited to 20*l.*, but it was proposed to enlarge the limit to 50*l.* for debts, and from 5*l.* to 20*l.* in cases of "tort," in which damages for wrong were sought to be recovered. Where, urged Sir George, was this to stop? The House may next year be called on to extend the jurisdiction indefinitely. The bill also proposed an increase of the judges' and clerks' salaries and to remove the limits of counsel's fees, which will detract from the present advantages of cheapness. To test the opinion of the House with respect to the bill, he moved that it be read a second time that day six months.—Mr John Evans, in astonishment at Sir George Grey's objection, asked, why deter the legislature from continuing in a course of utility? The frequency of decisions on pitiful quibbles is so great in the superior courts, that the judges will find it impossible to go on much longer, from mere contempt and ridicule.—Mr. Martin conceived the bill to be a step towards the abrogation of trial by jury. All experience proved that the best system of jurisprudence was that in which a jury decided upon matters of fact, and a judge upon law. Reverse that system, and allow 60 gentlemen [the present number of County Court judges] through the country to decide both fact and law, and serious evils would ensue. [In a County Court it is at the option of parties to have juries or not, as they please.]—Mr. Cockburn gave his cordial support to the bill. As to trial by jury in civil actions, he believed that a single judge of knowledge, education, and experience, was infinitely better than juries, especially those selected at assizes. In the course of equity, where property was dealt with in masses and in its most important relations, there were no juries. If important points of law arose, the case might be brought before a superior court. The public would do without juries willingly, for they very seldom asked for them in County Court trials. The principle of these courts simplified the law, which is so voluminous and perplexing, that a lawyer's lifetime is too short to learn it, and even at last he cannot understand it; while, to the subject, the law is a sealed book; a state of things to be ashamed of.—The Attorney-General opposed the bill with emphatic warmth. His arguments rested chiefly on the grounds that the County Court judges are unrestrained by the opinion of a professional bar; that the admission of persons to be witnesses in their own cause either promotes perjury, or hinders sensitive parties from seeking justice.—On a division, Sir George Grey's amendment was negatived, by 144 to 69; and the bill was read a second time.—Mr. Hume inquired whether, after this demonstration of feeling, the Government would persevere in opposing so salutary a measure?—Sir George Grey said, he should object to increasing the salaries of the judges; but he could not undertake to say whether Government would oppose the measure any further.

The Public Libraries and Museums Bill was now to be moved into committee, and Mr. Ewart announced that he had modified it in two points:—First, To limit its operation to boroughs whose populations exceeded 10,000; Secondly, To make it necessary for the town council of any borough, before determining to carry this act into effect, to call a public meeting of rate-payers, and to obtain their distinct consent.—Colonel Sibthorp would still oppose the bill; inasmuch as it would impose a fresh tax, and he moved that it be committed on that day six months.—Lord J. Manners also objected to the bill as doing that for libraries and museums what the legislature had refused to do for churches, hospitals, and charities.—Mr. Oswald wished to know whether the bill was intended to apply to Scotland? If so, he should oppose it.—Colonel Chatterton asked whether the bill was to apply to Ireland? These eager questions produced a laugh.—Mr. Ewart said that the bill was not intended to apply to Scotland, but he should be most ready to include Ireland in its operation, if the majority of the Irish members so desired. He regretted to find a proposition for the establishment of libraries and the extension of knowledge opposed by three of the four members for our universities.—Colonel Sibthorp's amendment was eventually lost by a majority of 35 out of 163 votes.

On Friday 12th Lord John Russell moved for a

select committee on *Official Salaries*. He proposed that the inquiry should embrace the pay and emoluments of offices held during the pleasure of the Crown by Members of either House of Parliament; of judicial officers in the Superior Courts of Law and Equity; the retiring pensions of the Judges; and also the expense of Diplomatic Establishments. Lord John supported his motion by an appeal to precedents, and to the reductions effected at the recommendation of former committees of inquiry, of which there was one in 1798, in civil establishments; others in 1818, 1828, and 1830, on the salaries of office-holders in Parliament; and a fifth, on military establishments, in 1848. It was, said his lordship, quite impossible to make sudden and sweeping reductions, or to form fixed tariffs of salaries.—The motion was opposed by an amendment from Mr. D'ISRAELI: he did not see why that should be done by parliamentary committees, which it was the duty of government to do. Why did not ministers introduce a bill on the subject at once? Lord John Russell's experience and studies would enable him to settle in a single morning the scale of Parliamentary salaries; the Home Secretary might do the same for the Judicial salaries; Lord Palmerston for the Foreign salaries—no one more capable. But committees, meant procrastination. If this one be granted, it must go into the whole subject, as if no information existed; and nothing will satisfy it but thorough investigation. Its evidence will be published; and at the beginning of the session of 1851—observed the honourable member, amid much laughter—"leave will be asked to sit again." Much has been said about the exhibition of works of art in 1851—much respecting the competition of foreigners; but there is one production which no foreign nation can touch, and that is the blue book which the committee will produce! Mr. D'Israeli then moved "That this House is in possession of all information requisite to revise and regulate public salaries; that Parliamentary Committees of inquiry would only lead to delay; and that it is the duty of the Government, on their own responsibility, to introduce the measures that may be necessary for effecting every reduction in the National Establishments consistent with the efficient discharge of the public service."—The debate then exhibited some splitting of parties, especially among the financial reformers.—Mr. HUME would not oppose the amendment because it emanated from the opposite side of the house: he should like to see how many of those who profess a desire for public economy could vote against it. Perhaps it pressed Government, but Governments ought to be pressed. If the Committee's recommendations agreed with the wishes of Government, Government would carry them out; if not, they would abstain. A committee was next to useless.—Mr. HENLEY complained that Lord John gave no indication that he intended reductions. As to the Committee—would the child unborn see the issue of its inquiries? Mr. Henley would vote for the amendment.—Sir Benjamin HALL could not trust Ministers with the reduction of their own salaries.—Mr. BRIGHT was gratified to observe both parties vying with each other in carrying out Mr. Cobden's economic views. If the Committee were to be such as Lord John had appointed on former occasions, there would be delay and shirking. In the hope, however, of an independent Committee excluding Government influence, officials, and all salaried or pensioned Members of the House, Mr. Bright would give his vote for the Government.—Finally, Mr. DISRAELI'S amendment was negatived by 250 to 159.—Mr. HORSMAN then moved another amendment, adding to the original motion these words—"And incomes and emoluments of Ecclesiastical Dignitaries." This was negatived, by 208 to 95; and Lord John's motion was carried.

The Stamp Duties Bill was considered in Committee on Monday 15. On the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposing a further diminution of the rates of duty on bonds and mortgages—from *5s.* marked in the schedule for every *50l.* of loan, down to *2s. 6d.*; and half-a-crown upon every *50l.* of increase—Sir Henry WILLOUGHBY moved that the duty be *1s.* on *50l.*, instead of *2s. 6d*, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed. Sir Charles WOOD objected—and after some discursive conversation, the House affirmed Sir Henry Willoughby's amendment, by 164 to 135; whereupon there arose great cheering. Sir Charles WOOD immediately stated, that in consequence of this decision, the Government would proceed with the bill no further that night, and would take time to consider what to do next.

On 16th Mr. Milner GIBSON brought forward four resolutions for the abolition of *Taxes on Knowledge:* 1st, To repeal the excise duty only on paper; 2nd, To abolish the stamp, and 3rd, the advertisement duty on newspapers; 4th, To do away with the customs duty on foreign books. The sacrifice, said Mr. Gibson, of the small excise duty on paper yearly, would lead to the employment of 40,000 people in London alone. We are totally driven out of our own colonies in British America by the paper of the United States, France, Germany, and Italy. The suppression of Chambers' Miscellany, and the prevented reissue of Mr. Charles Knight's Penny Cyclopædia, from the pressure of the duty, are gross instances of the check those duties impose on the diffusion of knowledge. Mr. Gibson did not propose to alter the postal part of the newspaper stamp duties; all the duty paid for postage—a very large proportion—would therefore still be paid. He dwelt on the unjust Excise caprices which permit this privilege to humorous and scientific weekly periodicals, and even to the candlestick and candelabrum circular of an advertising tradesman, but deny it to the avowed "news" columns of the daily press. He especially showed by extracts from a heap of unstamped newspapers, that great evil is committed on the poorest reading classes, by denying them that useful fact and true exposition which would be the best antidote to the pernicious principles now disseminated among them by the cheap unstamped press. There is no reason but this duty, which only gives 350,000*l.* per annum, why the poor man should not have his penny and even his halfpenny newspaper, to give him the leading facts and the important ideas of the passing time. The tax on advertisements checks information, fines poverty, mulcts charity, depresses literature, and impedes every species of mental activity, to realize 150,000*l.* per annum. That mischievous tax on knowledge, the duty on foreign books, is imposed for the sake of no more than 8000*l.* a year! Mr. Gibson concluded by expressing his firm conviction, that unless these taxes were removed, and the progress of knowledge by that and every other possible means facilitated, evils most terrible would arise in the future,—a not unfit retribution for the gross impolicy of the Legislature.—Mr. COWAN pointed out that the paper tax checked the progress of manufacture. An attempt was made a few years ago, in Gloucestershire, to manufacture paper from straw; but while the cost of raw material was *2s.* a hundredweight, the duty was *14s. 9d.* the hundredweight, and, of course, the undertaking failed. He had in his possession some paper made so long ago as the year 1800 from straw; and but for the excise incubus, that peculiar manufacture would, by this time, have been brought to a high state of perfection.—Sir Charles WOOD opposed the motion. Everybody was nibbling at the surplus, although it had been already disposed of in other reductions. This course persisted in, he seriously apprehended that a surplus would be more disastrous to a Chancellor of the Exchequer than a deficiency.—Mr. ROEBUCK, in supporting Mr. Gibson, assured the House that it was centuries behind the time; whereat the House laughed. The education which the House refused, the French Socialists will give. The masses are learning from them the power of "combination." The learned member then proceeded to exclaim with vehemence—"They will put you down to a certainty; but they won't know how to direct their power for the good of mankind. For God's sake, therefore, allow us to give the instruction which these vast multitudes need, who are destined to exercise power in this country!"—Lord John RUSSELL owned that it is "very desirable that the people in general should have political intelligence. It is very fit that all the political concerns of the country should be known;" but much of the matter contained in the newspapers is hardly to be dignified by the name of knowledge. He opposed the motion, chiefly on account of the financial difficulties it presented.—After a speech from Mr. D'Israeli, partly in favour and partly against them, the resolutions were negatived.

Mr. FOX'S *Education Bill* came on for second reading on Wednesday 17th. Mr. STAFFORD opposed it on philogical grounds. It did not accurately define the word "secular," which might mean "atheistic." He concluded by moving that the bill be read that day six months.—The Earl of ARUNDEL and SURREY maintained that secular education is quite inconsistent with religion, and warned the House, that in this country there are books of a highly intellectual character, beautifully written and widely circulated, which would utterly destroy every vestige of the Christian religion. The noble Lord read a series of extracts from works by Dr. Ullathorne, a Catholic vicar apostolic, Mr. Laing, Mr. Newman, two American writers, the Rev. Mr. Rose, and also from several newspapers; winding up with a stanza from "Reverberations." His lordship then having thanked the House for having allowed him to "disgust" them by the passages he had read, proceeded in the following strain:—Every one knew what his particular religious belief was; but he was not advocating the claims of the Roman Catholic Church; he was speaking on behalf of the poor of every religious denomination, that they should not be exposed to the peril of their souls. Some three centuries ago a great convulsion arose in men's minds; what was called the Reformation took place, and the Scriptures were set up for the teaching of the Church. He did not say whether that was right or wrong; but now they had arrived at another period;—the Scriptures were to be utterly laid aside. Lord Arundel wound up with a tremendous peroration. The present movement he regarded as that of a mere skirmishing party which would be easily driven in; but what he called on the House to consider was, that this was not the last attack; the two armies were joined; the battle-cry was "religion" or "irreligion," "God" or "devil," and the issue for which they must fight was heaven or hell!

"The mover of the amendment," said Mr. ROEBUCK, in answer to these various remarks, "had come with his quiver full of arrows, feathered with epithets, and barbed with imputations. In a mellifluous voice and well-poised sentences, he had nakedly charged the supporters of the bill with supporting Atheism." The noble seconder, continued the honourable gentleman, had followed with quoted doctrines which had as little to do with the bill as the doctrines of every saint in the calendar. His lordship objected to the Reformation; and why? Because it took mankind out of the thraldom of that priesthood which the noble lord would call a Church. Mr. Roebuck denied it. The priesthood were neither the Church nor the exclusive teachers of religion. Every father of a family when he opened the Bible and taught his children from its pages, was as much a teacher of religion as the meddling priest; he formed as much a portion of the Church as he who propounded doctrines from the pulpit. Mr. Roebuck asked for the education of the people, and he asked it upon the lowest ground. As a mere matter of policy, the State ought to educate the people; and why did he say so? Lord Ashley had been useful in his generation in getting up Ragged Schools. [Here a titter arose in the house.] Mr. Roebuck saw nothing to laugh at, it was a great imputation upon this kingdom that such schools were needed. Why were they needed? Because of the vice which was swarming in all our great cities. We pass laws, send forth an army of judges and barristers to administer them, erect prisons and place aloft gibbets to enforce them; but religious bigotry prevents the chance of our controlling the evil at the source, by so teaching the people as to prevent the crimes we strive to punish. It was because he believed that prevention was better than cure; it was because he believed that the business of Government was to prevent crime in every possible way, rather than to punish it after its commission, that he asked the House to divest themselves of all that prejudice and bigotry which was at the bottom of the opposition to this measure. Mr. Stafford's speech was in the same spirit as Lord Arundel's. The latter represented Grandmother Church, and the former Good Mother Church; and he had no doubt that many hon. gentlemen would be found on the Ministerial side of the house who represented some of her improper daughters. Mr. Roebuck then proceeded to ask how the secular knowledge which it was proposed to give under this bill would shut the mind of the children? He begged it to be borne in mind that it was not proposed to take the child away from home for seven years and then restore him. He was to be at home day by day, and almost hour by hour; at school, and at home, alternately. The school would teach him secular education, and he would go home trained for the moment; by degrees he would be better trained to receive religious instruction at home. Mr. Roebuck concluded by remarking in reference to Mr. Fox, the framer of the bill, that he was glad to see that there was a gentleman in the house who had courage to face all the imputations that had been brought forward — for he must have known that he would have to face them — and having now broken the ice, he hoped he would no longer halt by the way —that he would, in the language of the noble lord, continue the great fight, for a "great fight" it undoubtedly was. During some portion of the learned gentleman's speech, the house resounded with cheers.—Lord ASHLEY believed that this was the beginning of a series of conflicts; and he confessed alarm that the propounders of this measure persevered in renewing their attacks on the religious education of the country. He then quoted certain statistics to show that the educational resources of the country were much under-estimated.—Lord John RUSSELL believed that if it were totally impossible to agree on any mode of religious instruction, it would be better to have secular education than none; but nothing short of absolute necessity could justify the omission of religion. The bill is despotic; it would altogether destroy existing schools; for when so much was demanded in rates, the voluntary resources for promoting education must fail. It would be extremely hard that those who had spent their money, time, and labour, in establishing schools upon the religious basis, should have their purposes defeated.—Mr. HUME regretted Lord John Russell's opposition, as contrary to the whole tenor of his previous conduct and opinions.—On the motion of Mr. ANSTEY, the debate was adjourned to 2nd of May.

On Thursday the 18th, an attempt was made, but defeated, to prevent the *Larceny Summary Jurisdiction Bill* from going into committee. Two amendments were carried; one removing adults from the operation of the bill, and the other that no offender above the age of 14 should be whipped.—Mr. ROEBUCK—whose personal appearance is rather juvenile—caused some amusement during the latter discussion. He remarked that, speaking of himself, he could say, that if anybody had laid hands upon him as a boy—(here he was interrupted by much laughter). He spoke what he felt as an individual, and had a right to suppose that the same feelings existed in the breast of the peasant.—In the end, the bill was reported as amended.

The *Australian Colonies Bill* was debated in committee on Friday the 19th. On the sixth clause Sir William MOLESWORTH moved an amendment, for the purpose of establishing "in the Colonies of Van Diemen's Land and South Australia respectively, a Legislative Council and a House of Assembly." After a sharp debate, it was lost by 218 to 150.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, on the 22nd, gave his promised explanations of what he intended to do with the *Stamp Duties Bill*. It was simply this:—that the amendment carried on a former evening would produce so great a diminution of revenue, that if it were persisted in, he should be obliged to abandon the bill. Meantime he proposed to abide by the vote of the House as to the 1*s.* duty on sums under 50*l.*; then to raise that by 1*s.* 6*d.* on every 25*l.*, up to his own scale of 10*s.* for 200*l.*, and to carry it uniformly up, from that amount, to 100,000*l.*, at one-fourth per cent.; finally to adopt a limit, and to confine the *maximum* duty to that which was payable on borrowing 100,000*l.*, viz., 250*l.*

The details of the *Australian Colonies Bill* were then debated at great length, and most of them affirmed. —Mr. C. LUSHINGTON moved an amendment to clause 17, namely, that that part of it which provides for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure on every bill which shall be passed by the council in any of the

colonies altering the sums allotted for the sustentation of public worship, be omitted.

On the second reading of the *Metropolitan Interments Bill* (introduced on the 15th), it was agreed that it should not be committed till Friday the 10th May.

Col. SIBTHORP was amusing on the *Official Salaries Bill*.—On Lord John RUSSELL naming the select committee, the Colonel said, that instead of appointing this "select" committee, the noble lord at the head of the Government had better have said candidly—"I mean to take care of myself and of my own salary. I shall look after my friends, and I will stand by them as long as they stand by me; *ubi mel, ibi apes* [where the honey, there the bees]. Let them support me, and they shall have plenty of turtle and venison!" He then called the committee a "packed" one; with what justice will be seen: it was agreed to consist of the following members:—Lord J. Russell, Mr. W. Patten, Mr. Bright, Sir J. Y. Buller, Mr. Cobden, Mr. Beckett, Mr. Napier, Mr. Home Drummond, Mr. W. Evans, Sir W. Molesworth, Mr. Henley, Mr. Ellice, Mr. Ricardo, Mr. Walter, and Mr. Deedes.

Mr. LABOUCHERE brought in the *Mercantile Marine Bill* in its altered state, and it was read a first time.

Mr. HEYWOOD, on the 23rd, moved for an address praying for a Royal Commission to inquire into the *State of the Universities* of Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin, with a view to their adaptation to the requirements of modern times. Many things, he said, demanded reforms, which the Universities could not make for themselves. Sir R. INGLIS denied the right of the House to ask the Crown to interfere unless a *primâ facie* case were made out against these institutions. They were reforming themselves, and the University of Oxford since 1800 was a great reforming body.—Lord John RUSSELL could not agree to a motion which might be characterised as a bill of indictment against the Universities, not considering that they were objects of accusation by the great majority of the country. Considerable improvements had been made by the Universities themselves, but these improvements might be rendered more complete; and he proposed to advise the Crown to issue a Royal Commission for Oxford and Cambridge.—Mr. HEYWOOD withdrew his motion; and Mr. Roundell PALMER, on the ground that so important a matter required consideration, moved an adjournment of the debate, which was carried by 273 to 31.

Mr. MILNES moved the second reading of *Juvenile Offenders' Bill* on Wednesday 24th, in a speech in which he stated that the 545,454*l.* which youthful criminals had cost the country during the last six years, had not produced a single reformatory result. That sum had therefore been utterly wasted.—Sir G. STRICKLAND moved that the bill be read that day six months, which was carried without a division.

The *Affirmation Bill* was next discussed, on Mr. Page WOOD moving it into committee. The object of the measure was to legalise a simple affirmation by all persons who have conscientious scruples against taking an oath—a privilege now only enjoyed by Quakers and Moravians. After a short conversation the motion was negatived by a majority of 148 to 129.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—April 12th. Convicts' Prison Bill read third time and passed.

15th.—Brick Duties Bill passed through committee.

16th.—Exchequer Bills and Brick Duties Bills read third time and passed.

18th.—Pirates' Head-money Bill read second time.

22nd.—Smoke Prohibition and School District Contribution Bills, passed through Committee.—Select Committee to inquire into Evasions of 11 & 12 Victoria, cap. 106.—Foreign Cattle Importations Act.

23rd.—Regulation of Pleadings Bill read second time.—School Districts Contributions Bill read third time and passed.

House of Commons.—April 8. Stamp Duties Bill read second time, "pro forma."—Public Health (Ireland) and Parochial Assessments Bills read first time.

9th.—Security for Advances on Irish Land Bill, read first time.—Vote of 2,434,417*l.* taken for Ordnance Estimates.—Brick Duties Bill and Small Charitable Trusts Bill passed.

10th.—County Courts Extension Bill, Public Library and Museums Bill, and Parish Constables Bill, read second time.—Exchequer Bills (9,200,000*l.*) read third time and passed.

11th.—Distressed Unions (Ireland) Advances and Repayment Bill, read second time.—Judgments (Ireland) Bill, read third time and passed.—Legal Technical Objections Restraining Bill, read first time.—Naval Prize Balance and Indemnity Bills read first time.

12th.—Committee of Inquiry into Public Salaries agreed to.—Public Health (Scotland), and Public Improvement (Scotland) Bills, read second time.—Estates Leasing (Ireland) Bill, read third time and passed.—Indemnity Bill read second time.

15th.—Medical Charities (Ireland) Bill read second time.—Indemnity Bill passed through Committee.—Metropolitan Interments, Convict Prisons, and Railway Abandonment Bills, all read first time.

16th.—Committee to inquire into Investments for the Savings of the Poor granted.

18th.—Larceny Jurisdiction Bill reported as amended in Committee.—Naval Prize Balance Bill read second time.—Indemnity Bill read third time and passed.

19th.—Mercantile Marine Bill withdrawn for modification and amendment.

22nd.—Metropolitan Interments, and Railway Abandonment Bills were read each a second time.—Resolution that Naval Prize Balances should be paid out of Consolidated Fund.—Mercantile Marine Bill read a first time on re-introduction.

23rd.—Committee granted to Mr. Roebuck to inquire into the defalcations of Sir Thomas Turton, Registrar of the Court of Bengal.—Collector of Fees in Chancery Bill read first time.

24th.—New Writ for Lymington ordered, Mr. Keppel having accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

THERE was an aggregate meeting of the citizens of Dublin convened in the Rotunda, to petition the legislature against the contemplated *Abolition of the Office of Lord Lieutenant* on the 8th. The Round Room was crowded, the audience including ladies. The chair was taken by the Lord Mayor. Resolutions condemnatory of the intended abolition of the vice-regal court were adopted.—At a meeting of an opposite tendency, of the Irish Alliance, a Mr. Leyne called upon the audience to despise the pocket patriotism that petitions for a continuance of the Lord-Lieutenancy. "Heed not what is called the indignant protest of outraged national feeling. It is but the grumbling of the discharged menials of the Castle. It is but the lament of the official purveyors who hold diplomas from Viceroy's Chamberlain. It is not a revolt of the people that rages. It is a squabble in the kitchen,—an *émeute* of the scullery against the drawing-room." These remarks were received with great hilarity.

The *Tenant Right Movement* is increasing in some districts, especially in Ulster, Tipperary, and Limerick; and meetings were held at which ridiculously violent language was used. Combined action, no frequent expedient in Ireland, has been determined on. A congress of delegates, to meet in Dublin, is in course of organisation.

The *Repeal Association* is fast expiring. At the meeting in Conciliation Hall on Tuesday the 9th, there was a very small attendance. Mr. John O'Connell announced the rent for the week to be 4*l.*, and stated that if the country did not come forward to support the Association, it would be impossible for him to keep the doors of Conciliation Hall open much longer.

The first of two meetings of a conference convened by the *National Reform Association* was held in Crosby Hall on the 23rd & 24th. Its objects were to receive reports from delegates in reference to the progress of the reform movement, to devise means of carrying out with promptitude and vigour the objects of the Association, and to complete the arrangements for realising the fund of 10,000*l.* required for the present year's operations. The attendance was very numerous: many of the leading Reformers were present, and there were no less than 130 delegates from different parts of the kingdom. Sir Joshua Walmsley, President of the Association, was in the chair. Able speeches were made by the Chairman, Colonel Thompson, Mr. Hume, Mr. W. J. Fox, Mr. J. Kershaw, Mr. Heyworth, and other eminent individuals; and several resolutions were unanimously adopted.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

On the 2nd, Thomas Denny was tried at Kingston-on-Thames for *Murdering his Child*. He was a farm-servant, and so poor that he lived in a hay-loft on his master's premises with his reputed wife. In August a child was born, and died immediately. Suspicions arose, and an investigation took place, which led to the prisoner's commitment charged with murdering the infant. On the trial the prisoner's son, an intelligent boy of eight years old, told the following graphic story of his father's guilt:—"We all," he said, "lived together in the hay-loft at Ewell. When mother had a baby, I went to my father and told him to come home directly. When we got back, my father took up the baby in his arms. He then took up an awl. [Here the child became much affected and cried bitterly, and it was some time before he could proceed with his testimony. At length he went on.] My father took up the awl, and killed the baby with it. He struck the awl into its throat. The baby cried, and my father took the child to its mother, and asked her if he should make a coffin for it. Before he said this, he asked her if she would help to kill it, and gave her the awl. She tried to kill it also. My father gave her the child and the awl, and she did the same to it that he had done. I was very much frightened at what I saw, and ran away, and when I came back I found mother in bed." The woman (Eliza Tarraut) had been charged as an accomplice, but the bill against her was ignored by the Grand Jury. On the trial, she was called as a witness; to which the prisoner's counsel objected, she being a presumed participator in the crime. The woman however was called, and partly corroborated her son's testimony; but denied that she took any share in killing her offspring. The prisoner was convicted, and Mr. Justice Maule passed sentence of death, informing him that there was no hope of respite.—Subsequently however the objections of the prisoner's counsel proved more valid than the judge supposed, for the Secretary of State thought proper to commute the sentence. The unfortunate man received the respite with heartfelt gratitude. Since his conviction he appeared to be overcome with grief at his awful position.

"*I'll throw you over!*" exclaimed a carpenter of the Strand Theatre, named Lepridge, to a fellow-workman. They were quarrelling violently, and the latter (Matthews) having taken refuge in one of the upper boxes from the rage of his companion, was followed by Lepridge, who seized him by the throat and actually threw him over into the orchestra. This happened on the 2nd. Matthews was seriously injured, but was able to attend and give his evidence a few days afterwards at Bow-street. The prosecutor humanely begged his fellow-workman off, notwithstanding his savage conduct. The excuse was, that having been drinking all day, Lepridge was furious from intoxication. The magistrate sentenced him to a fine of 5*l*., or two months imprisonment.

A Tale of Misery was revealed on the 3rd to Mr. à Beckett, the magistrate of Southwark police court. He received a letter from a gentleman who stated that as he was walking home one evening, his attention was attracted to a young woman. She was evidently following an immoral career; but her appearance and demeanour interesting him he spoke to her. She candidly acknowledged, that having been deserted by her parents, she was leading an abandoned life to obtain food for her three sisters, all younger than herself. Her father had been in decent circumstances, but that unfortunately her mother was addicted to drink, and owing to this infirmity their parents had separated, and abandoned them. The writer concluded by hoping that the magistrate would cause an inquiry to be made. Mr. à Beckett directed an officer of the court to investigate into this case. On the 4th, the officer called at the abode of the young woman, in a wretched street, at a time when such a visit could not have been expected. He found Mary Ann Bannister, the girl alluded to, and her three sisters, of the respective ages of eight, eleven, and fourteen, in deep distress. The eldest was washing some clothing for her sisters. There was no food of any description in the place. Altogether the case was a very distressing one, and although accustomed to scenes of misery, in the course of his duties, yet this was one of the most lamentable the officer had met with. The publication of the case had the effect of inducing several benevolent individuals to transmit donations to Mr. à Beckett for these destitute girls, to the amount, as he stated on a subsequent day, of above 25*l*. He added that it was in contemplation to enable the girls to emigrate to South Australia, and that meanwhile they had been admitted into the workhouse of St. George's parish, where they would be kept till a passage was procured for them to the colony. More than one person had offered to take Mary Ann Bannister into domestic service; but emigration for the whole four was thought more advisable.

A female named Lewis, who resided at Bassalleg, left her home on the 3rd to go to Newport, about three miles distant, to make purchases. She never returned. A search was made by her son and husband, who is a cripple, and on the night of the following day they discovered her *Murdered in a Wood* at no very great distance from the village, so frightfully mangled as to leave no doubt that she had been waylaid and brutally murdered. The head was shockingly disfigured, battered by some heavy instrument, and the clothes were saturated with blood. For some days the perpetrators escaped detection, but eventually Murphy and Sullivan, two young Irishmen, were arrested at Cheltenham, on suspicion. Wearing apparel covered with blood, and a number of trifling articles were found on them. They were sent off to Newport, where it was found they had been engaged in an atrocious outrage in Gloucestershire, on an old man whom they had assailed and robbed on the road near Purby; his skull was fractured; and his life was considered to be in imminent peril. Both prisoners were fully committed to the county gaol at Monmouth to take their trial for wilful murder.

A *Dreadful Murder* has been discovered in the neighbourhood of Frome, in Somersetshire. On the 3rd a young man named Thomas George, the son of a labourer residing near that town, left his father's house about eight in the evening and never returned. Next morning his father went in search of him, and found his body in a farmer's barn; he had been apparently dead for some hours, and there were deep wounds in his head and throat. A man named Henry Hallier, who had been seen in company with the deceased, the night he disappeared, close to the barn where his body was found, was apprehended on the 18th on suspicion, and committed to the county gaol.

An act of *Unparallelled Atrocity* was committed during the Easter week in the Isle of Man. Two poor men named Craine and Gill went to a hill-side to procure a bundle of heather to make brooms. The proprietor of the premises observed them, and remarked that he would quickly make them remove their quarters. He at once set fire to the dry furze and heather, directly under the hilly place where the poor men were engaged. The fire spread furiously, and it was only by rolling himself down the brow of the hill, and falling over the edge of a precipice into the river underneath, that Gill escaped. His unfortunate companion, who was a pensioner, aged 80 years, and quite a cripple, was left in his helpless state a prey to the flames. After they had subsided, Gill went in search of Craine, whom he found burnt to a cinder. The proprietor of the heath has been apprehended.

A Shot at his Sweetheart was fired by John Humble Sharpe, a young man of 21, who was tried for it at the Norfolk Circuit on the 9th. The accused, a young carpenter, had courted and had been accepted by the prosecutrix, Sarah Lingwood. She, however, listened to other vows; the lover grew jealous, and was at length rejected. In the night after he had received his dismissal, the family of the girl's uncle with whom she lived were alarmed by the report of a gun. On examining her bed-room it was discovered that a bullet had been fired through the window, had crossed the girl's bed, close to the bottom where she lay, grazed a dress that was lying on the bedclothes, and struck a chest of drawers beyond. Suspicion having fallen on the prisoner, he was apprehended. The prisoner's counsel admitted the fact, but denied the intent. The prisoner had, he said, no desire to harm the girl, whom he tenderly loved,

but only to alarm her and induce her to return to him. The jury, after long deliberation, acquitted the prisoner.

Several shocking instances of *Agrarian Crime* have been mentioned in the Irish papers. At Glasslough, in the county of Monaghan, a shot was fired into the bedroom window of Mr. John Robertson, land steward to C. P. Leslie, Esq., on the night of the 10th. Arthur O'Donnel, Esq., of Pickwick Cottage, in Clare, was murdered near his own house, on the night of the 11th. He was attacked by a party of men and killed with a hatchet. The supposition was that this deed was committed by recipients of relief whom Mr. O'Donnell was wont to strike off the lists at the weekly revision by the board of the Kilrush union, of which he was one. A man was arrested on strong suspicion. There was another murder in Clare. The herdsman of Mr. Scanlon, of Fortune in that county, went out to look after some sheep, the property of his master, when he was attacked by some persons who had been lurking about the wood, and his throat cut.

Two evidences of the *Low Price of Labour* were brought before the magistrates. One at Bow-street on the 10th, when W. Gronnow, a journeyman shoemaker, was charged with pawning eight pairs of ladies' shoes entrusted to him for making up. He pleaded extreme distress, and said he intended to redeem the shoes that week. The prisoner's employer owned that the man was entitled to no more than 4*s*. 8*d*. for making and preparing the eight pairs of shoes. "Why," said the magistrate, "that price is only *sevenpence* a pair for the workman. I am not surprised to hear of so many persons pawning their employers' property, when they are paid so badly." The prisoner was fined 2*s*. and ordered to pay the money he had received upon the shoes within fourteen days; in default, to be imprisoned fourteen days. Being unable to pay the money, he was locked up.

On the previous day a man named Savage, a slop shirt seller, was summoned at Guildhall for 9*d*., the balance due to Mrs. Wallis for making three cotton shirts. When delivered, Savage found fault with them, and deferred payment. Eventually 1*s*. 3*d*. was paid instead of 2*s*. The alderman said he was surprised at any tradesman who only paid 8*d*. for making a shirt, deducting 3*d*. from so small a remuneration; it was disgraceful. He then ordered the money to be paid, with expenses.

Alexander Levey, a goldsmith, was tried at the Central Criminal Court on the 10th, for the *Murder of his Wife*. They were a quarrelsome pair: one day, while the husband, with a knife in his hand, was cooking a sweetbread, the wife came in, and, in answer to his inquiry where she had been, said she had been to a magistrate for a warrant against him. On this, with a violent exclamation, he stabbed her in the throat; she ran out of the house, while he continued eating with the knife with which he stabbed her, saying, however, he hoped she was not much hurt. She died in consequence of the wound. The defence was, that the blow had been given in the heat of passion, and the prisoner was found guilty of manslaughter only. He was sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.

On the same day, Jane Kirtland was tried for the *Manslaughter of her Husband*. They lived at Shadwell, and were both addicted to drinking and quarrelling, in both which they indulged. Kirtland having called his wife an opprobrious name, she took up a chopper, and said that if he repeated the offensive expression, she would chop him. He immediately repeated it with a still more offensive addition, and at the same time thrust his fist in her face, when she struck him on the elbow with the chopper, and inflicted a wound of which he died a few days afterwards. The prisoner, when called upon for her defence, burst into tears, and said that her husband was constantly drunk, and that he was in the habit of going out all day, and leaving her and her children in a destitute state, and when he came home he would abuse her and insult her in every possible way. In a moment of anger she struck him with the chopper, but she had no intention to do him any serious injury. The jury found the prisoner Guilty, but recommended her to mercy on account of the provocation she had received. She was sentenced to be kept to hard labour in the House of Correction for six months.

A coroner's inquest was held in Southwark on the same day, respecting the death of Mrs. Mary Carpenter, *an Eccentric Old Lady*, of eighty-two. She had been left, by a woman who attended her, cooking a chop for her dinner; and soon afterwards the neighbours were alarmed by smoke coming from the house. On breaking into her room on an upper floor, the place was found to be on fire. The flames were got under, but the old lady was burnt almost to a cinder. Mrs. Carpenter was a very singular person; she used at one time to wear dresses so that they did not reach down to her knees. Part of her leg was exposed, but the other was encased with milk-white stockings, tied up with scarlet garters, the ribands extending to her feet, or flying about her person. In this extraordinary dress she would sally forth to market, followed by immense crowds of men and children. For some years past she discontinued these perambulations, and lived entirely shut up in her house in Moss-alley, the windows of which she had bricked up so that no light could enter from without. Though she had considerable freehold property, she had only an occasional female attendant, and would allow no other person, but the collector of her rents, to enter her preserve.

On the 12th, Mrs. Eleanor Dundas Percival, a lady of thirty-five, destroyed herself by poison at the Hope Coffee-house in Fetter-lane, where she had taken temporary apartments. *A Distressing History* transpired at the inquest. She was the daughter of a Scotch clergyman, and lost the countenance of her family by marrying a Catholic, a captain in the navy; while her husband suffered the same penalty for marrying a Protestant. About a year ago he and their infant died in the West Indies; she afterwards became governess in the family of Sir Colin Campbell, Governor of Barbadoes; her health failing, she returned to England in October last, and had since been reduced to extreme distress. Having been turned out of a West-end hotel, and had her effects detained on account of her debt contracted there, she had been received into the apartments in Fetter-lane partly through the compassion of a person who resided in the house. While there, she had written to Miss Burdett Coutts, and, a few days before her death, a gentleman had called on her from that benevolent lady, who paid up the rent she owed, amounting to 2*l*. 14*s*., and left her 10*s*. On the evening above-mentioned she went out and returned with a phial in her hand containing morphia, which, it appeared, she swallowed on going to bed between five and six o'clock, as she was afterwards found in a dying state, and the empty phial beside her. The verdict was Temporary Insanity.

Elias Lucas and Mary Reeder were Executed at Cambridge on the 13th. Lucas was the husband of the female convict's sister, whom they had poisoned. Morbid curiosity had attracted from twenty to thirty thousand spectators. In the procession from the jail to the scaffold there was a great parade of county magistrates.

The Middlesex magistrates sat on the 15th to hear appeals of publicans whose licenses had been refused by the divisional justices, for exhibiting "*Betting Lists*" which show the state of the "odds" against horses entered for different races. This, it was alleged, encouraged persons to make bets and to gamble. It was admitted that these lists were the same with those published in the newspapers; but on the other hand, when bets were made, it was usual for the landlord to hold the stakes; and the judge decided that, though the landlord could not be made responsible for bets made in his house, yet, when he became stake-holder, he was knowingly suffering gaming, contrary to the terms of his license. The licenses were ultimately granted on the applicants promising to discontinue the betting lists, and on payment, by each, of 10*l*. costs.

At the Mansion House, on the 16th, *Walter Watts, clerk in the Globe Assurance Office*, late lessee of the Marylebone and Olympic Theatres, after a series of examinations, was committed for trial on a charge of stealing two cheques of 1400*l*. each, the property of the above office.

Louisa Hartley was charged at the Southwark Police Court, on the 16th, with an *Attempt to poison her Father*, who is a fellowship-porter. On the previous morning

she made the coffee for breakfast, on tasting it, it burnt Hartley's mouth, and he charged the girl with having put poison in his cup, which she denied; he then tasted her coffee, and found it had no unpleasant flavour. His daughter then snatched away his cup, and threw the contents into a wash-hand basin. But in spite of her tears and protestations of innocence, he took the basin to Guy's Hospital, where it was found that the coffee must have contained vitriol. The girl, who was said to be of weak intellect, and stood sobbing at the bar, being questioned, only shook her head and said she had nothing to say. At a subsequent hearing the magistrate decided that there was sufficient evidence for a committal.

Fresh *Illustrations of Smithfield Cruelty* were brought to light by Mr. Thomas, secretary to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, at the Clerkenwell Police Court on the 19th, to complain of acts of gross cruelty on the part of drovers and others. It was stated that oxen were daily overdriven, until they became completely exhausted, and were obliged to lie down in the streets, when they were cruelly beaten and pricked in the hocks until the blood flowed from their flesh, and by being thus tormented they crawled along in pain to their destination, where they were tied up, and fresh and unnecessary cruelties were inflicted upon them prior to their being slaughtered. Numerous complaints had been made to the Society by humane persons, who were determined, if possible, to check or put down the intolerable nuisance. The magistrate highly commended them for their exertions, and intimated that he would grant warrants against offending parties who could be identified.

A Scene from Life in London was detailed in the Court of Exchequer on the 19th. A baker and bill-discounter named Glen sued Lieut. Evans of the 69th, as acceptor of a bill of exchange drawn by Lieut. Baldwin of the Rifle Brigade. The defence was that the plaintiff had obtained the bill by fraud and collusion with one Humbert, who had stolen it from Mr. Baldwin, after having got from him a letter in which he said he had received money for the bill, which he had not. On being cross-examined, Mr. Baldwin said, Lieut. Evans was in London when the bill was drawn. We wanted to raise 200*l.*, of which each was to have 100*l.* The Turf Wine-stores, in Jermyn Street, where I met Humbert, is not a regular gambling-house, but one to which men go to make bets. I was a very frequent visitor there, "Ladies" are admitted. I have played at hazard at this house with Humbert. When I have been there, they have always tried to persuade me to play. I have never been a winner there. I have never won a "copper" there in my life. The game was not played there habitually. When I wrote this letter I was intoxicated, although it was only 5 o'clock in the afternoon. I wrote it deliberately. "What!" exclaimed Baron Alderson, "do you call it writing a letter deliberately if you are drunk at the time?" The jury consulted for some minutes, and then found "that the bill had been obtained by fraud from the drawer, Baldwin, by Humbert, but that there was no evidence to connect the plaintiff with that fraud." The verdict was then entered as for the plaintiff, damages 200*l.*

A man named William Bennison, a workman in an iron-foundry, has been committed to prison at Leith on suspicion of having *Poisoned his Wife*. The circumstances of the case are extraordinary. The scene of the murder is an old-fashioned tiled house in Leith. Bennison and his wife occupied the second floor of a house in which also resides Alexander Milne, a cripple from his infancy, well known to the frequenters of Leith Walk, where he sits daily, in a small cart drawn by a dog. Mrs. Bennison, after, it is said, partaking of some gruel, became very ill, and died on Monday, the 22nd inst. The dog which drew the cripple's cart died about the same time: suspicion was drawn upon the husband, and he was apprehended, and the dog's body conveyed to Surgeon's Hall for examination. Some weeks before, Bennison had purchased arsenic from a neighbouring druggist, to kill rats, as he said. When suspected, he called on the druggist, and requested him and his wife not to mention that he had purchased the arsenic. He even pressed for a written denial of the fact, adding that there might be arsenic found in his wife's stomach, but he did not put it there. On the Monday previous to her death it is said he enrolled her name in a benefit society, by which on her death he was entitled to a sum of 6*l.* At the prisoner's examination before the sheriff the report of the chemists pronounced the contents of the dog's stomach to have been metallic poison. The accused was eventually committed for trial.—The deceased and her husband were members of the Wesleyan body, and bore an excellent character for piety. Bennison professed to be extremely zealous in behalf of religion, and was in the habit of administering its consolations to such as would accept of them. His "gifts" of extempore prayer are said to be extensive.

Two Men were shot at by a Gamekeeper lately in a wood belonging to Lord Wharncliffe, near Barnsley. The game on this estate is preserved by a solicitor, who resides near Wokefield, who employs Joseph Hunter as gamekeeper. Both the men were severely injured, and Cherry, one of them, sued Hunter as the author of the offence, in the Barnsley County Court, and the case was heard on the 19th instant. Cherry stated, that on the 23rd February he went to see the Badsworth hounds meet at the village of Notton, and in coming down by the side of a wood he saw the defendant, who asked plaintiff and two others where the hounds were. Plaintiff told him they were in Notton-park. These men left Hunter, and walked down by the side of Noroydswood. They went through the wood, when one of the men who was with him began cutting some sticks. Plaintiff then saw Hunter, who was about 25 yards from them, coming towards them: the men began to run away, when plaintiff said to the other, "He 's going to shoot us;" and before he had well delivered the words, he was shot in the arm and side, and could not run with the others. A surgeon proved that the wounds were severe and in a dangerous part of the body. The two men who were with the plaintiff corroborated his evidence.—The Judge said that defendant deserved to be sent to York for what he had done already. The damages might have been laid at 100*l.* or 1000*l.* had plaintiff been acting lawfully; but he thought plaintiff had acted with discretion in laying the damages at 10*l.*, for which he should give a verdict, and all the costs the law would allow.

A simple personage named George Thompson, a cattle-salesman in Little Britain, charged a suspicious-looking fellow whose name did not transpire, at Bow-street, on the 23rd, with an *Ingenious Swindle*. The complainant's tale was, that on the previous day he was walking down Holborn, when the prisoner, accompanied by another person, accosted him in the following terms:—"Hallo, old brick, you 're a countryman I can see by the look of your jib; dang it, we must have a drain together." The prisoner continued, "Well, we 'll just go in to Tom Spring's and have a drain." They according went in to Tom Spring's, and witness was treated to two glasses of port wine. While there, a game at skittles was proposed by the prisoner, which was accepted, and his friend and witness were invited to watch the game. Various public houses were entered, and various potations of brandy and water indulged in. When the skittle-ground was reached, the prisoner and his friend played witness, but asked to bet on the game, and, briefly to relate, the only 5*l.* which he had were soon won by betting and playing. The prisoner then said, "Have you no more money?" Witness said, "Not with me, but I 've 15*l.* at home." After a great deal of pressing on the part of the prisoner and his friend, witness was foolish enough to go home with them in a cab and get it. When he had got it, they adjourned to another skittle-ground, and, of course, the 15*l.* soon followed in the wake of 5*l.*, and then they all set off, leaving him "in pawn" at the public house for certain liquors they had had. Information was given to the police, and the prisoner discovered. The magistrate who adjudicated in the case remarked that he had never known a person evince such childishness as Thompson had shown. The affair appeared to him to be a mere gambling affair, though he had no doubt the money was won by unfair means, and the prisoner must therefore be discharged.

R. C. Willis, a clergyman of the Church of England,

was tried at the Central Criminal Court, on the eighth charge of *Obtaining Money on False Pretences*. He had gone to Hatchett's Hotel, Piccadilly, and having run up a bill of 3*l*. 3*s*. 6*d*., he gave a cheque for 14*l*. 13*s*. 1*d*., and being known as a customer of the house, no suspicion was entertained, and the difference was handed over to him, the cheque, as in the other cases, turning out to be of no value. He was found guilty on two charges, and it was stated that there were twelve similar ones against him. He was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, for a year, in the House of Correction.

An *Affecting Case* occurred at the Mansion House on the 23rd. William Powers, a boy, was brought up on the charge of picking a gentleman's pocket of a handkerchief. A little boy, who had seen the theft, was witness against him. The prisoner made a feeble attempt to represent the witness as an accomplice; but he soon abandoned it, and said, with tears, that he "did not believe the other boy to be a thief at all." The Alderman, moved by his manner, asked him if he had parents? He said he had, but they were miserably poor. "My father was, when I last saw him, six months ago, going into the workhouse. What was I to do? I was partly brought up to the tailoring business, but I can get nothing to do at that. I am able to job about, but still I am compelled to be idle. If I had work, wouldn't I work! I'd be glad to work hard for a living, instead of being obliged to thieve and tell lies for a bit of bread." Alderman Carden—If I send you for a month to Bridewell, and from thence into an industrial school, will you stick honestly to labour? The Prisoner—Try me. You shall never see me here or in any other disgraceful situation again. Alderman Carden—I will try you. You shall go to Bridewell for a month, and to the School of Occupation afterwards, where you will have an opportunity of reforming.—The wretched boy expressed himself in terms of gratitude to the Alderman, and went away, as seemed to be the general impression in the justice-room, for the purpose of commencing a new life.

Cobbe's *Divorce Bill* came judiciously before the House of Lords on the 23rd. Mr. T. Cobbe, a barrister, was married in 1838 to Miss Azelia Anne Cobbe, his cousin; both were young and attached to each other. They lived together in Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square, from the time of the marriage to the year 1846, on the most affectionate terms. Among their visitors was Mr. Talmadge, a special pleader in the Temple, a college companion and intimate friend of Mr. Cobbe. In 1846 Mr. Cobbe's father came from Ireland to see him, and they took a trip to Germany together, leaving Mrs. Cobbe and her sister at home. They were absent about a fortnight. It has been proved by the evidence of the domestic servants, that Mr. Talmadge during that period was in the habit of being clandestinely admitted into the house and passing the night in Mrs. Cobbe's bedchamber; and that this criminal intercourse was continued after the husband's return. On the 13th of March 1847, Mr. Cobbe went as usual to his chambers, and his wife, after giving the servants directions for dinner, &c., left the house and never returned. She is now living with Mr. Talmadge at Passy near Paris. Mr. Cobbe brought an action for adultery against Mr. Talmadge, who suffered judgment to go by default for 500*l*. damages; and he has obtained a sentence of divorce in the ecclesiastical court.—The bill was read a second time.

The Legal Bearings of the Gorham Case have been discussed with great animation not only before the regular tribunals, but at meetings all over the country. On the 15th, in the *Court of Queen's Bench*, Sir F. Kelly moved for a rule to show cause why the Arches Court and the Archbishop of Canterbury should not be prohibited from proceeding further in giving effect to the judgment of the Committee of the Privy Council in the case of Gorham versus the Bishop of Exeter; by which judgment the previous decree of the Court of Arches had been reversed. He contended, that, in such a case, the appeal from the Court of Arches lay, not to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, but to the Upper House of Convocation; and that, therefore, the proceedings which had been laid before her Majesty in Council were entirely void, and the decree of the Court of Arches remained in full force. Lord Campbell, after having heard the learned counsel's argument, said that the Court would intimate its decision on an early day.

At the *Arches Court* on the same day, Mr. Bewdler, the proctor for Mr. Gorham, intimated that no return has been received to the monition which was ordered the last court-day to be served on the Bishop of Exeter, and prayed that a certificate of its continuation be granted. The presentation had not been sent in by the Bishop. Another application on behalf of Mr. Gorham was made on the 23rd, when the Judge ordered the case to stand over till next term.

At *a Great Number of Public Meetings* strong demonstrations of their respective opinions and sympathies have been made by the supporters of each side of the question.—The most noticeable was one on the 1st, by the *Parishioners of Mr. Gorham*, at St. Just, who adopted a resolution congratulatory on the successful issue of his suit, "involving, as they believe it did, vital Christian truth." In his reply Mr. Gorham says:—"That such a struggle should have been with my 'diocesan,' is, you will readily believe, the chief circumstance connected with it which has given me pain; but I had no choice between such a contest, and compromise of a great Protestant—let me rather say Scriptural—truth."

A good deal of attention has been excited by a *Correspondence between Miss Sellon and Lord Campbell*. Writing from the "Orphan's Home, Plymouth," March 19th, the lady desired his lordship to withdraw his name from the charitable establishment of which she is the head.—Lord Campbell wrote a good-humoured answer, expressing great respect for Miss Sellon's piety and benevolence, telling her that she misunderstood the judgment of which she complains.—Miss Sellon returned to the charge in a letter of the 8th, in which, after an impassioned lamentation for the wounds inflicted on the Church, she concludes by saying, "I thank you very earnestly for your promise of remembering me in your prayers. I am not worthy to pray for you—and yet if the God of all goodness will hear the supplication of a loving and deeply sorrowing heart, He will bring you to grieve for the injury done to the Church, and will help you to repair it—and give you all blessing in time and eternity."—Lord Campbell, in a reply, reiterated his previous arguments, and, lamenting her "stern resolution," tells the lady that "if at any time hereafter you should be induced to relent, I shall joyfully avail myself of the opportunity of again trying to further your benevolent schemes." Miss Sellon closed the correspondence by complaining that her previous letters should have been published without her sanction.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

Numerous Shipwrecks were occasioned by the terrific storm which swept over these islands on the last two days of March, and produced innumerable disasters among shipping on nearly every coast, and great loss of human life.

The Royal Adelaide Steamer, which was due at the wharf, Lower East Smithfield, from Cork on the 30th ultimo, did not arrive. A river-pilot, who had been waiting at Gravesend to take charge of her, was informed by a Deal pilot that he had passed in his bark a large steamer on Saturday night, about 15 miles off Margate. Signals of distress were fired from her, and she seemed to be on the sand. The wind blew a gale, and the bark could render no assistance. The description of the wreck tallied with that of the missing ship. Subsequently intelligence was brought by steamers that arrived in the river, describing the appearance of the wreck. Not a soul was seen on board by any of these vessels. A telegraphic despatch from Margate on Monday afternoon (1st), announced that the wreck was covered at high-water, and that two bodies had been picked up off the sands. It was now ascertained that signals of distress had been heard by men of the Coast Guard near Margate, and by the people of the Tongue light ship; but as there were only two or

three repetitions, it was supposed that the vessel making them had got off. It was afterwards surmised that the steamer was filled too rapidly with water to fire off more signals. There was a tremendous sea running at the time, which tore away great pieces of the vessel. From the state of the weather, no boat could reach the wreck till Monday, when a few articles were brought away from it, but nothing of material importance; and soon after, the wreck was almost washed away. The vessel was between 400 and 500 tons burden, and was commanded by Captain John Batty, of Cork, who had been above 20 years in the service of the Company. The passengers who left Cork were 144 adults and 23 children; those from Plymouth, 14 adults; and the crew consisted of 24 men and one boy; so that 206 lives were lost.—During the following week several distressing scenes took place in the Company's office in Leadenhall Street, and at their wharf in Lower East Smithfield, by relatives of the unhappy sufferers, inquiring after their probable fate.—Many bodies were picked up by the wreckers, who flocked round the vicinity of the Tongue Sands, and, having stripped them, they were re-committed to the deep. Naked bodies of men and women were passed in the Channel by different ships which arrived in the river. Two or three vessels were seized, having property concealed on board evidently, plundered from the wreck of the Royal Adelaide. A subscription has been opened at several banking-houses in the City for the relief of the families of the sufferers.

Among other disasters, a Liverpool ship, called the *Teresa Jane*, bound to Maranham, with a cargo valued at 30,000*l.*, was wrecked on the Copeland Isles, near Belfast. The master and seven men perished, but a part of the vessel having remained on the rocks on which she struck, the rest of the crew, eight in number, were saved.

The Emma, bound from Dundee to Montreal, was also wrecked on the morning of the 1st. At daybreak, amidst the fury of the gale, the ship was discovered adrift, off St. Margaret's, Orkneys. Those on board managed to make sail on her, and she stood to the eastward; then tacked and stood to the north, when she drove and struck on the point of the rocks with terrible force. It was utterly impossible to render any assistance to the crew from the shore. They took to the rigging, and their cries and gestures for help were truly heart-rending. Their sufferings were of but short duration; for within half-an-hour the masts were carried away, and with it the unfortunate men, every one of whom perished. The hull of the ship was shortly broken up into a thousand pieces.

The Howard, of nearly a 1000 tons burden, was lost near Liverpool, having struck on a ledge of sand-banks at the mouth of the Ribble. The crew were seen at daybreak on Sunday morning (31st of March) clinging to the rigging, and were brought ashore by the Southport life-boat. One of them, John Smith, died; the rest recovered, though quite exhausted.

Along the Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, and Northumbrian coasts, there were innumerable casualties. Between thirty and forty coasting-vessels were driven ashore, and the bulk of them became wrecks. There were similar disasters on the Welsh coast. Nearly all the vessels in Beaumaris Harbour were driven ashore, and more or less injured. The smack *Brothers*, of Liverpool, was wrecked near Penmon, and Captain Barnet, the master, his wife, and one of the men, were drowned. The bodies were on the beach, the captain and his wife clasped in each other's arms.

On the 5th a pilot-boat brought into Cowes the master of the Lincoln, sailing from Boston for California. He had reached the latitude of 4° N. and longitude 25° W., and when at 10° 30 p.m. of March 2, during a heavy shower of rain, and without any menacing appearance in the air, the ship was *Struck with Lightning*, which shivered the mainmast, and darted into the hold. On opening the scuttle, volumes of smoke were emitted, and finding it impossible to extinguish the fire, the crew endeavoured to stifle it by closing every aperture. In this state they remained for nearly four days, with the fire burning in the hold, when they were relieved from their perilous situation by the providential appearance of the Maria Christina, and taken on board. Previous to leaving the ill-fated brig, the hatches were opened, when the flames burst forth, and in thirty minutes afterwards the mainmast fell over the side. The unfortunate crew were most kindly treated by Captain Voss, the master of the Maria Christina, who did everything in his power for their relief.

Two deaths on the Railway have to be recorded. On the 2nd, as the up-train on the South Western Railway was proceeding from Windsor to London, at forty miles per hour, the engine-driver perceived to his horror a man lying on the rails, who made no attempt to get off until the train had approached within a few yards of him, when he threw himself down on the permanent way. The whistle was sounded, brakes promptly applied, and the engine escaped striking him, but the steps of the first carriage dashed his brains out. His left leg and arm were also severed from the body. As soon as possible the train was brought to a stand-still, but it is needless to state that life was totally extinct. The unfortunate man was a farmer's servant who resided at Datchet, and had married only a few months ago one of the station clerk's servants. Some thought his object was suicide, whilst his friends believe that he was only crossing the line to get to his own home, when, hearing the sound of the whistle, he became paralysed with fear, and unable to move.

On the 5th another tragedy occurred on the Eastern Counties Railway. Mr. William Newall, manager of the Norfolk division, in company with some other gentlemen, left the Norwich terminus for the purpose of inspecting a bridge, near the Haddiscoe station. Having viewed it, the engine returned to the Reedsham swing-bridge, where a goods train was waiting on the line, about eighty yards distant, for the engine to pass. The unfortunate gentleman, recollecting that he had not telegraphed their approach from Haddiscoe to Reedham, and thinking the goods train was in motion, dreaded a collision, and jumped off. His boot caught the ledge of the car, and before there was a possibility of arresting his fate the engine travelled over him. The body was found doubled up, and a macintosh which he wore had been pulled over his head.

A Miss Downie met, on the 4th, with an *Extraordinary Death* at Traquair-on-the-Tweed. She had suffered, since childhood, from severe pains in the head and deafness; her health had been gradually declining for the last three years, and in August last she was seized with most painful inflammation in the left ear, accompanied by occasional bleedings also from the ear. On the 20th of March an ordinary-sized metallic pin was extracted from the left ear, which was enveloped in a firm substance with numerous fibres attached to it; several hard bodies, in shape resembling the grains of buck-wheat, but of various colours, were also taken out of the right ear. The poor girl endured the most intense pain, which she bore with Christian fortitude till death terminated her sufferings. It is believed the pin must have lodged in the head for nearly twenty years, as she never recollected of having put one in her ear, but she had a distinct remembrance of having, when a child, had a pin in her mouth, which she thought she had swallowed.

An Explosion of Fire-damp occurred on the 12th in a coal-mine at Marsden. It has not been ascertained how the accident originated, as all the persons on the spot, five in number, were killed; their bodies were found by persons attracted from another part of the mine by the explosion. It probably arose, as usual, from carelessness. Each collier carries a safety lamp, but some of them are in the habit of taking off the top to light their pipes or for other purposes; and the lamp of one of these men was found near his dead body with the top taken off.

A *Waterspout*, a phenomenon seldom seen in these latitudes, happened on the 13th in the Bristol Channel. As the Fanny and Jane brig from London to Bristol was proceeding up channel, she had her masts, bowsprit, and everything above deck carried away by a waterspout. She was taken in tow by the Alert of Bridport, and brought into Bristol Harbour. Vessels distant from the brig at the time of the occurrence only half a mile escaped uninjured.

A Terrible Storm passed over Dublin on the afternoon of the 18th. The day had been unusually fine; but about three o'clock an extraordinary fall of the mercury was observed. At a few minutes before four the storm commenced; the peals of thunder, accompanied by lightning, followed each other with scarcely any interruption, and breaking with a tremendous crash over the city. The wind veered round fully half the compass, came with the force of a hurricane from the north, and drove the hailstones with such violence as to shatter almost all the windows in the line exposed to its fury. Trees were torn up by the roots in the College Park, and other places in the vicinity of the city. Some houses in the south suburbs were unroofed, and almost all the glass was shivered in the galleries of the Dublin Society, the Round Room of the Mansion-house, the Rotunda, the conservatories of the public gardens, and other places similarly exposed. The hailstones were of enormous size, as large as grapes, and some others much larger. Indeed the storm presented, on the whole, all the characteristics of such a phenomenon in the tropics. During the storm the Lord-Lieutenant and Vice-regal party had to fly for shelter from the flower exhibition of the Horticultural Society to the Round Room of the Rotunda; and at the same time the storm was committing great ravages among the sheds of the Royal Dublin Society's Cattle Show, where Lord Clements and a party of his friends were observed exerting themselves to rescue some persons from beneath the fallen structures. Happily no lives were lost, but the sacrifice of property was immense. The police of the city made a return which shows that the loss suffered by all classes from a storm the duration of which was only to be measured by minutes, approached in the aggregate to 27,000*l.*

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

Education, Religious or Secular, is a question which Mr. Fox's bill appears to have brought into active discussion, especially in the manufacturing districts. On Easter Monday, the Lancashire Public School Association held a great meeting at Manchester. The Mayor was in the chair; and several members of the Corporation, and a number of the clergy of the town and neighbourhood, were on the platform. A petition to parliament was adopted, praying for the establishment of "a system of education, excluding all theological doctrines and sectarian influences, supported by local rates assessed on the basis of the poor's-rate, and managed by local authorities especially elected for that purpose by the ratepayers, so as to afford to all, especially to the untaught and neglected, opportunities free of charge for a thorough training in useful knowledge, good principles, and virtuous habits."—The Rev. Hugh Stowell, who is a Canon of Chester, affirmed that education, to be advantageous to the people, must be "a Christian education." In the course of a vehement speech the Rev. gentleman cited the case of "infidel France," as an illustration of the fatal effects of the want of a religious education.—A long, a stormy debate ensued, in the course of which Dr. John Watts reminded Mr. Stowell that the National education of France was entirely in the hands of the priesthood, up to the time of the great Revolution.—A number of Irishmen, who had early obtained admission, and formed a body close to the platform, created much disturbance by trying to hoot down the supporters of the motion; but the firmness of the mayor succeeded in preserving tolerable order.

Three important meetings have been held at Leeds during the present month. The first was summoned by the working men of Leeds, to consider the subject of public non-sectarian education; the second was called on a memorial signed by Dr. Hook, among others, to consider the extension of Education on some basis of impartiality towards all sects; the third was demanded by Mr. Edward Baines and the advocates of Voluntary education, to consider the objections against State interference.

At the first of these meetings, on the 11th instant, Mr. Hamer Stanfield denied the dictum, that religion is a bar to the progress of education; such an assertion is injurious to the cause of religion. "I care little," he said, "for the statistics with which the opponents of national education so profusely treat us. When I see figures piled upon figures, I am forcibly reminded of the manœuvres of a fish called the cuttle-fish, which, when closely pursued by its foes, discharges an inky sort of fluid, which muddles the water, and enables it to escape."—Dr. Smiles drew a strong picture of the lamentable ignorance prevalent among the working classes. About one-half of our poor, he said, can neither read nor write. The test of signing the name at marriage is a very imperfect absolute test of education, but is a very good relative one: taking that test, how stands Leeds itself in the Registrar-General's return? Thus, in 1846, of 1,850 marriages, 508 of the men and 1,020 of the women, or considerably more than one-half of the latter, signed their names with marks; of 47 men employed upon a railway in the immediate neighbourhood, only 14 men can sign their names in the receipt of their wages; and this not because of any diffidence on their part, but positively because they cannot write. And lately, of 12 witnesses, "all of respectable appearance," examined before the Mayor of Bradford at the Court-house there, only one man could sign his name and that indifferently. "I have seen it stated," said the doctor, "that a woman for some time had to officiate as clerk in a church in Norfolk, there being no adult male in the parish able to read and write. For a population of 17,000,000 we have but twelve normal schools; while in Massachussets they have three such schools for only 800,000 of population. Every broken tradesman in this country thinks himself, and is thought by others, good enough to set up for a teacher. The Sunday School machinery, excellent in its kind, is valueless to impart secular education; and it is inefficient in its special religious aims in strict proportion; for it is a notorious fact that the great obstacle which a Sunday School teacher meets is the dense ignorance of the child in rudimentary secular knowledge.—He argued with great force and eloquence, that, in these days, the diffusion of wholesome knowledge among the people was essential to the very safety of the state: "Of all the signs of the present times this seems to me among the clearest—the steady advance of the democratic element in society—(cheers). It is absolutely inevitable; and the fact is universally admitted—by some with joy and exultation, by others with profound sorrow and alarm. It is only a question of time, or perhaps of opportunity. The next great revolutionary wave which rolls across Europe may bring the suffrage within the reach of the whole adult people of England, as it has already placed it within the possession of those of Germany and France, who a little more than two years ago seemed far farther from it than we were—(hear). To the already enfranchised classes I would say, educate the people in time, that you may have an intelligent and reasonable people to deal with instead of a blind, ignorant, and exasperated one; and to them not enfranchised I would say, get education, that you may obtain the means of employing your new power to the greatest possible advantage, and for the common benefit of all (loud cheers). While the education of the rest of Europe is advancing with such rapid strides, and giving new life to the productive activities of the Continental states, it seems clear to me that if England does not educate ahead of them, she must inevitably lose her present supremacy among the nations."

At the meeting called by Mr. Baines he proposed a resolution against Mr. Fox's bill; but an amendment, moved by Mr. Hamer Stanfield, was carried by a considerable majority, and afterwards a resolution in favour of secular education, founded on local management and taxation, and under local control, was passed almost unanimously.

There were also meetings at Hull and Derby, with similar results.

The Mayor of Manchester has established a *Fund for a Public Library and Reading Room for the Working Classes* of that town. Sixteen, eighteen, or more firms have subscribed each 100*l.* towards this excellent design; and, altogether, the funds promised will be little less than 3000*l.* The Hall of Science in Camp-field, originally built (not many years ago) for the Socialists, is designed to be the depository of the library; and Sir Oswald Mosley, Bart. (till recently the lord of the

manor of Manchester), being the owner of the building as well as the land, is prepared to sell them for the purpose.

A plan is in contemplation to form a *New Park at Islington*, for the accommodation of the people of that vicinity. At a Vestry meeting on the 22nd, Mr. Lloyd, the projector of the park, gave a statement of its locality and probable cost. He said the area would cover 500 acres; the cost would be about 150,000*l.* to 200,000*l.*, and that the project had already received the countenance of His Royal Highness Prince Albert, Lord Robert Grosvenor, Lord Ashley, Lord Carlisle, and other eminent personages. Mr. Tyler, the chairman of the Islington committee, said that they had refrained from drawing up a petition until they could take the sense and obtain the co-operation of the whole 15 parishes of the borough: he urged active measures in favour of the proposed park, as he said the present open space, unless at once secured, would be covered with buildings in less than twelve months. Other members having discussed the question, a resolution approving of the proposed park was unanimously carried, and a public meeting of the borough was determined to be held forthwith.

At the aniversary dinner of the *Governesses' Benevolent Institution* on the 17th, the Duke of Cambridge, who filled the chair, gave a very pleasing account of the successful labours of the Institution. During the last seven years, the period of its existence, the ladies' committee have investigated 775 individual cases; they have received 3,150 applications from these distressed ladies, and have given aid 1,620 times, with an amount of 3,980*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*; the annuities to the aged have also been steadily increased. There were now 35 ladies receiving regularly a small but certain income. The provident fund amounts to 58,286*l.*, the savings of 553 ladies, invested in Government security, to form a provision for their old age; whilst no less than 5,552 ladies have availed themselves of the registration, free of expense, of whom no less than 3,009 have been provided with situations.

Fifty-one committees, in furtherance of the *Exhibition of Industry of* 1851, have made a return of their first subscription lists to the Royal Commissioners. The amount of the sums announced is 43,619*l.* In addition to these returns, it was announced that the Royal Academy had voted 500*l.*, and the Mercers' Company 100*l.*, making the sum total up to this date 44,219*l.* Nor is the movement confined to this country. The French Minister of Commerce has addressed a circular to the different Chambers of Commerce and Manufactures, calling their attention to the exhibition which is to take place in 1851 in London, and urging on them the necessity of using their utmost efforts among the manufacturers in their respective districts, in order that the products of French industry sent to England may be such as to keep up the character of the country for ingenuity and skill in workmanship. The circular also explains that the exhibition will include agricultural productions, and calls the attention of those connected with those pursuits to the benefit which may result from their taking part in it.

A pleasing *Re-union of Employers and Work-people*, so beneficial to both classes, took place on the 20th at Moltram, near Manchester. In the beautiful vale of the river Goit are situated the extensive calico and muslin print works of Mr. Matley. This was the fiftieth anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Matley's wedding-day, and they determined to celebrate it by a feast to their work-people. A spacious marquee was erected, and covers were laid for between 600 and 700 guests, who, after a procession headed by a band of music, sat down to a plentiful repast at 2 o'clock. A handsome piece of plate, subscribed by the workmen, was presented to Mr. Matley; and the fête terminated with music and dancing.

The Cholera Nursery is a name which has been given to the churchyard of St. Clement's Danes. It is crammed with human remains, yet augmentations of corpses and of noxious vapours are daily made. The inhabitants of the neighbourhood are continually complaining in the newspapers of the disgusting scenes that take place, and of the aerial poison which rises out of the graves; but no power seems strong enough to abate the nuisance.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

The Queen, Prince Albert, and the Royal family spent the Easter holidays at Windsor Castle. On the 5th Her Majesty visited the cavalry barracks at Spittal to witness the conclusion of *Rustic Sports*, which have been going on during the week among the corporals and privates of the 1st Life Guards. These consisted of wrestling, a hurdle race—in which ten men ran about three quarters of a mile, taking fourteen leaps over hurdles,—jingling, and a broadsword combat between two corporals. The most extraordinary feat was that of cutting a sheep in two at one stroke of the broadsword. The carcass having been suspended on a tree immediately in front of the carriage in which Her Majesty and the Prince were seated, Corporal Newton took the sword—which had been handed to Her Majesty and the Prince by Colonel Hall for inspection—and with one blow severed the carcass in the middle.

The Royal family returned to Buckingham Palace on the 6th. On the 19th Prince Albert had a visit from the heirs presumptive to the throne of the Sandwich Islands. The lord in waiting must have had some difficulty in announcing them correctly; they are the Princes Kamehameha and Liholiho. As embryo foreign potentates they were introduced by Lord Palmerston.

Lord John Russell *Took a trip to Manchester* during the Easter week, where he was pleasantly received, and added to his popularity by the interest he manifested in the prosperity of that great seat of industry. He left London on the 2nd, with his lady, on a visit to Sir Benjamin Heywood. In the course of the two following days he inspected some of the principal manufactories, particularly the premises of Messrs. Nasmyth and Gaskell, the engineers and machine-makers; and the great Mayfield print-works belonging to Alderman Neild, where female artisans are employed in engraving patterns on the cylinders; a novelty which appeared to give much pleasure to the visitors. Lord John received complimentary addresses from the corporation of Manchester and Salford, and much good-feeling towards the Premier was everywhere manifested.

The Oriental Club gave a banquet to *Lord Gough* on the 9th at their mansion in Hanover Square. Major-General Sir James Law Lushington presided: Lord Hardinge and Major Edwardes were among the guests, about a hundred in number. The Junior United Service Club gave an entertainment to his lordship in the following week.

Dr. Tait bade *Farewell to the Rugby School* on the 11th, and the event was celebrated by the formal presentation of addresses and gifts, testifying the affectionate respect entertained for him by all the masters and scholars. A large body of "old Rugbeans" were present, and took part both in the ceremonies of presentation and speech-making. Dr. Tait returned acknowledgments with affectionate earnestness: he avowed his belief, that in taking part in the great and noble system of the school, he had learnt far more than he had taught.

Lieut. Graham, who with Mr. Elliot was tried by court-martial for having *Deserted the Childers* in consequence of the tyranny of the commander, Pitman, and sentenced to imprisonment, has been discharged; apparently from the presentation of the affidavit of Matthew Speary, armourer, and George Brown, seaman, before Mr. Justice Coleridge, of the cruelties they had witnessed on board that vessel. Mr. Elliot has been allowed to suffer the whole term of imprisonment.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

The Earl of Macclesfield died on the 31st March, at Ensham Hall, near Tetsworth, Oxfordshire, aged 87. He was son of the third Earl, by the daughter of Sir William Heathcote, Bart. His lordship was twice married, and had issue by both marriages. Viscount Parker succeeds to the title and estates. The deceased was deputy-lieutenant of Oxfordshire.

Captain T. R. Eden, R.N., commander of the Amphitrite, died in Valparaiso recently, after a few days' illness, when he was getting ready to return to this country with a freight which would have realised to him about 6000*l.* He entered the navy in 1824, and attained his captain's rank in 1844.

The Very Rev. J. Merewether, Dean of Hereford, who opposed with great energy the appointment of Dr. Hampden to the

Bishopric of Hereford, died on the 4th at the Vicarage, Madley. He was about 54 years of age.

Sir Archibald GALLOWAY, Chairman of the Hon. East India Company, died on the 6th, in Upper Harley Street, aged 74, after a few hours' illness. He transacted business at the India House on the 4th, and presided at the banquet recently given by the directors of the East India Company to Lord Gough. His chairmanship would have expired on the 12th.

Madame GRANDIN, the widow of M. Victor Grandin, representative of the Seine Inférieure, who died about seven or eight months since, met with a melancholy end on the 6th, at her residence at Elbœuf. She was confined to her bed from illness, and the women, who had been watching by her during the night, had left her but a short time, when the most piercing shrieks were heard to proceed from her room. Her brother ran in alarm to her assistance, but unfortunately he was too late, the poor lady had expired, having been burnt in her bed. It is supposed that in reaching to take something from the table, her night-dress came in contact with the lamp, and thus communicated to the bed.

Rear-Admiral HILLS died on the 8th, at his seat, Askerhill, Essex, aged 73. He became a lieutenant in 1798, and a post-captain in 1814. The deceased was a midshipman of the Eclair at the occupation of Toulon, and was lieutenant of the Amethyst at the capture of various prizes during the late war.

Dr. PROUT, F.R.S., expired in Sackville-street, Piccadilly, on the 9th, at an advanced age. He was till lately in extensive practice as a physician, besides being a successful author.

The Rev. William Lisle BOWLES, canon of Salisbury, and rector of Bremhill, Wilts, died in the Close, Salisbury, on the 7th, at the age of 89. He once enjoyed a high reputation as a poet and a critic; in the former capacity he is best known by his sonnets, in the latter by a controversy with Lord Byron. He was the intimate friend of Moore, Rogers, Crabbe, and Southey.

Captain SMITH, R.N., the Admiralty superintendent of packets at Southampton, died on the 8th unexpectedly. He was distinguished as the inventor of paddle-box boats for steamers, and of the movable target for practising naval gunnery. He entered the navy in 1808, and saw a good deal of service till the close of the war.

Madame TUSSAUD, the well-known exhibitor of wax figures, died on the 10th, in her 90th year. She was a native of Berne, but left Switzerland when but six years old for Paris, where she became a pupil of her uncle, M. Curtius, "artiste to Louis XVI., by whom she was instructed in the fine arts, of which he was an eminent professor. Madame Tussaud prided herself upon the fact of having instructed Madame Elizabeth to draw and model, and she continued to be employed by that princess until October, 1789. She passed unharmed through the horrors of the Revolution, perhaps by reason of her peculiar ability as a modeller; for she was employed to take heads of most of the Revolutionary leaders. She came to England in 1802, and has from that time been occupied in gathering the popular exhibition now exhibiting in Baker-street. She has left a large family of children and grand-children in this her adopted country.

Lieut.-General Sir James BATHURST, K.C.B., died at Kibworth Rectory, Leicestershire, on the 13th, in his 68th year. When he entered the army in 1794, if his age be correctly stated, he could have been only twelve years of age. He served at Gibraltar and in the West Indies, the capture of Surinam, the campaign in Egypt of 1801, in the expedition to Hanover, and in the actions fought for the relief of Dantzic, as well as in those of Lomitten, Deppen, Gutstadt, Heilsberg, and Friedland. Subsequently he served at Rugen and at the siege of Copenhagen. In 1808 and 1809 he served with the army in Portugal and Spain as assistant quartermaster-general, and as military secretary to the Duke of Wellington. The appointment of governor of Berwick, of the annual value of 568*l.*, which he held, will not be filled up.

Madame DULCKEN died on the 13th, in Harley-street, aged 38. She was the sister of the celebrated violinist, David, and had been for many years resident in this country, where she held a conspicuous position among the most eminent professors of the pianoforte.

The Duchess of MARLBOROUGH was confined with a still-born infant some five weeks ago, and was considered to be rapidly progressing to recovery. A severe mental shock, however, which she unfortunately experienced about a fortnight ago, took such a powerful hold of the nervous system, that her Grace never rallied, and finally sank under its baneful influence at an early hour on the 20th. The Duchess, it will be remembered, had a taste for the sports of the field—was a bold and graceful horsewoman, and a good shot.

William WORDSWORTH died at his residence of Rydal Mount, Windermere, on the 23rd inst., in his eightieth year, having been born at Cockermouth in 1770. He was distributor of stamps for Westmoreland and Cumberland; and appointed Poet Laureate on the death of Southey. As the author of the "Lyrical Ballads" and "The Excursion," his name will descend to posterity as one of the best English Poets.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE Foreign possessions of Great Britain have furnished no startling items of intelligence this month—a circumstance to be regarded as of excellent augury. The adage that "no news is good news," has an especial application to our Asiatic possessions, for there it means peace; and peace implies, in these days of commercial enterprise, prosperity. The East Indies furnish accounts of a small exception to the general tranquillity; some of our troops having had an unsuccessful encounter with a wild tribe in the Kohat hills.

From the West Indies, little is to be learned; but that little appears cheering. Jamaica promises to rise out of her ruin by the help of cotton; the experiment of cultivating that plant having succeeded in some instances beyond expectation.

The Australian Colonies (our pen-and-ink journies are more rapid than Puck's, for we "put a girdle round the earth" in less than "forty minutes") are alive with excitement about the new Bill, now in discussion at Westminster for their better government.—There is great rejoicing at the Cape of Good Hope. Cape Town is blazing with illuminations, and wildly letting off its joy in fireworks, after successfully resisting the Colonial Office in its design of sending convicts thither. In this case, as in many others, we are naturally visited with the consequences of old misconduct. We cannot reasonably wonder, knowing what we have done in New South Wales, that our colonists elsewhere should have a horror of convict contributions from the mother country.

The two *Overland Mails from India* which arrived during this month brought dates from Bombay up to March 16, Calcutta, March 7, and Madras, March 13. There had been some fighting in the newly acquired territories. On the 2nd of February a body of Affredies, inhabitants of the Kohat hills, about a thousand strong, attacked the camp of a party of our sappers, employed in making a road in a pass between Peshawur and Kohat. Twelve of our men were killed, six wounded, and the camp was plundered. To avenge this massacre a strong force under Colonel Bradshaw, Sir Charles Napier himself, with Sir John Campbell accompanying him, marched from Peshawur on the 9th. The mountaineers made a stand in every pass and defile; but although our troops destroyed six villages and killed a great number of the enemy, they were obliged to return to Peshawur on the 11th without having accomplished their object. On the 14th February another force was sent to regain the passes and to keep them open for a larger armament. A letter from an officer in the 60th Rifles gives details of the expedition; here are some extracts:—We had to march to a large village, by name Kohat, about 40 miles away to the hills, by forced marchs. When we arrived there, we found that the robbers had betaken themselves to the hills, with all their property and families, while they were shooting at our party and attacking our pickets, who crowned the hills, without our being able to molest them in return. We burned all their villages, spoiled their crops, destroyed their water, and did all the harm we could. But the day we left, we and the 31st Bengal Native Infantry regiment were descending the hills when the robbers came to the heights and killed and wounded a hundred of us. Poor Lieutenant Sitwell, of the 31st Regiment, was, before we could come to his rescue, cut to pieces before our eyes. He was a most dear friend of mine, and a very handsome fellow. Lieutenant Hilliard, of 23rd Regiment, was shot through the lungs; many native officers were killed. The pass we had to go through was a very difficult and dangerous one, and Sir Charles Napier himself had some most providential escapes, as also myself, for my horse was shot under me by a matchlock ball. Several artillery-

men were cut to pieces before we could come to help them, from their guns being upset. Never did I feel so much the horrors of death as I did at that moment. Poor Sitwell had passed through the bloodiest battle ever fought in India—viz., Chillianwallah, and then to be killed in a skrimmage like this, where there was no glory or honour, except that he was nobly doing his duty! Hilliard was only married the day before he went out on the expedition. We had got up a very large ball at this station to be given to the Commander-in-Chief, but it is needless to say it has not come off. The doctors have so fully shown to Sir Charles Napier the unhealthiness of Peshawur, that we are ordered to march next week to Subacto, a two months' march, at the bottom of the hills, near Simla, and, I hear, a pleasant cool station."

The Court of Inquiry into the mutiny in the 66th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry had closed its proceedings on the 7th of March. 60 privates were dismissed from the service, 30 sentenced to imprisonment for six months, 21 to imprisonment for seven years, and 5 were condemned to fourteen years' labour on the roads. This sentence being regarded by the Commander in-Chief to be too lenient, he directed its revisal, and the five greatest criminals were condemned to death; but the Commander-in-Chief commuted this sentence to transportation for life. To make the example more impressive, Sir Charles Napier resolved to disband the regiment.

An uneasy feeling is represented as still prevalent in the Punjaub. At Lahore further conspiracies of the Sikhs were apprehended. The operation of razing the walls of that city was begun on the 1st of February.

The Governor-General arrived at Point-de-Galle, in Ceylon, on the 7th of February, and left that place on the 9th for Singapore.

There are advices from *Hong-kong* to the 27th of February, but they contain no intelligence of public interest. Trade is stated to be pretty brisk. The coasting trade between Hong-kong and Shanghai is about to be taken up by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamers, Canton and Lady Mary Wood; so that the intercourse of Hong-kong with the northern ports will be more regular than it has been. M. Reynvan, the French Consul at *Canton*, had been nearly murdered by one of his domestics, a Chinese. While he was reading a newspaper, the man, stealthily coming behind him, attempted to cleave his skull with a chopper, inflicting a serious though not a fatal wound. The assailant was quickly pursued, but managed to escape. Plunder is supposed to have been his object.

Great excitement has been caused at *Malta* by the recent proceedings of the Council, declaring that the *Roman Catholic religion* is the dominant religion of the island, and that all others are only tolerated. Besides a protest from Bishop Tomlinson, officially lodged with the Governor, petitions were pouring in from all sects addressed to Earl Grey, beseeching him to intercede with Her Majesty to withhold her sanction to these proceedings. It must here be noted, that in the House of Commons Mr. Hawes declared that no such discrimination between any religions would be sanctioned.

The *West India* mail arrived on the 22nd. The weather was generally favourable, and the islands healthy.

The Cultivation of Cotton in Jamaica was attracting increased attention; some very superior specimens had been grown, and it was deemed probable that this article might become one of the principal staple products of the island.

At a Court of Admiralty Sessions recently held in Spanish-town a case was tried which excited a good deal of interest. An aged woman named Klaber was charged with taking to Cuba with her, upwards of twenty-five years ago, and *Selling a Black Woman as a Slave.* The charge was fully substantiated, and the prisoner sentenced to three years' imprisonment in the Penitentiary.

A quick Succession of Fires in Barbados, amongst the sugar estates, had excited much uneasiness. Some of these were said to be occasioned by incendiaries; others by the long drought which had prevailed. These fires continued of frequent occurrence up to the sailing of the packet. With reference to the *Crop* of this island it is stated that hitherto the yield of the canes had exceeded expectations, and although in one or two districts they suffered from drought last year, yet there was reason to expect that the present year's crop will not fall far short of that of 1849, which amounted to 33,000 hhds.

At *St. Thomas a desperate act of piracy* had been committed. The American schooner J. B. Lindsey left Port of Spain, Trinidad, on or about the 1st of February. While yet in sight of that place, at night, the mate and a passenger were murdered and thrown overboard by the crew. The captain was severely wounded, but contrived to secure the cabin-door against the murderers, and for some days kept them at bay. After ransacking the vessel for money, the miscreants took to the schooner's boat, and with an axe attempted to scuttle the vessel, but their design was defeated by the cook, who cut the boat's painter and set them adrift. The captain then managed to crawl upon deck, and by threatening to fire on the boat prevented the murderers from returning on board. The boat then made for the Spanish Main, and the captain managed to reach St. Thomas in the schooner, where he was taken care of by the American Consul, who has circulated handbills throughout the West Indies, offering a reward of 200 dollars for the capture of the murderers.

A *Tornado* of terrific violence passed over the town and harbour of Nassau (Bahamas) on the 30th March. About fifty houses were destroyed, many of them being actually smashed to atoms; trees of immense size were torn up by the roots; several small vessels in the harbour were sunk, and others dismasted. The squall in its course passed over a ship yard, and a large schooner on the stocks was blown over. Eight persons were killed, and several badly wounded. The *tornado* lasted not more than one minute. It happened about noon. *A fire* took place in Port of Spain, *Trinidad*, on the 7th ult., which destroyed property to the amount of 12,000*l.* sterling. The lower orders behaved nobly in rendering assistance; even women were seen working like the men. Many of those engaged in the Trinidad riots, six months ago, were seen labouring disinterestedly in removing and guarding furniture and stores, and though they had an opportunity of purloining to an immense amount, nothing was lost.

The *Australian intelligence* that has arrived during the month relates chiefly to the sensation produced by the Colonies Bill now under discussion in the Imperial Parliament.

The *Sydney* papers, which brought dates to the 20th December, mention a public meeting on the subject of the proposed *New Constitution for the Colonies*, which had separated without passing any resolution *A University* is to be established at Sydney, and a 30,000*l.* has been voted for the building, and 5,000*l.* for its fittings-up. It will contain at first chairs of the Classical Languages, Mathematics, Chemistry, Natural History, Natural Philosophy, Mechanics, Physiology, and the Medical Sciences; and professorships of History, Philosophy, and Political Economy, are to be hereafter added. There is to be no faculty of Theology, and, apparently, no religious tests. The Professor of Classics will be Rector of the University, with an endowment of 800*l.* a-year. The appointments of the other professors will range from 300*l.* to 400*l.* a-year; and to each will be given 100*l.* a-year for lodgings until rooms shall be ready for his residence in the projected building. Professors coming from Europe will have 100*l.* each towards the expenses of the voyage.

In the *Adelaide* papers is printed a remarkable document, and which has been taken notice of in parliament. It is a draft of resolutions to be submitted to the legislative council, by a member of it, Mr. John Morphet. The document was published by order of Sir Henry Young, the governor of South Australia, and was sent home, it appears, by him, to the Colonial Office, as an official paper. The resolutions declare it to be the opinion of the council, that a constitution for South Australia should be based on the principle of municipal government, after the model of Great Britain; that affairs of local concern should be left to local jurisdiction; that the legislature

should consist of a governor, an hereditary chamber, and an elective chamber; that each of the members of the hereditary chamber, in order to enter the chamber or remain there, should be bound to establish his permanent possession of landed property to a fixed amount; that local acts passed by the two chambers with the assent of the governor should at once become law; that there should be an executive council, liable to removal on a vote of want of confidence; the governor himself being irresponsible, but to be removable on an address to the Crown by both houses; that the colonial government have absolute power over the waste lands, one-half of the purchase-money being absolutely reserved for purposes of immigration; finally, the draft resolutions deprecate any general assembly for colonies so various as those of Australia.

Meetings had been held in *Van Dieman's Land* to petition the Queen and parliament on the subject of a representative assembly, and against the continuance of transportation to the colony. The *Arrival of Smith O'Brien* and his fellow convicts in the Swift brig of war took place towards the end of November. Governor Denison had received instructions from the Home Government to grant the offenders tickets of leave, on the condition of their engaging that the liberty thus given them would not be used as a means to effect their escape. Meagher and O'Donohue at once agreed, the former being located at Campbell Town, and the latter at Hobart Town. Smith O'Brien and M'Manus refused, upon which a meeting of the Executive Council was convened on the 30th of October, when it transpired that M'Manus has relented, but that Smith O'Brien was obdurate. O'Donohue, who is a law writer, and without means, having represented his poverty and the necessity of seeking a livelihood by his pen, was permitted to reside in Hobart Town. O'Brien, having refused the promise required by Government, was forthwith sent by steamer, under surveillance, to Maria Island, where he is to be strictly watched. M'Manus will remain at New Norfolk, O'Dogherty at Oatlands, and Martin at Hobart Town. It is stated that, with the exception of O'Donohue, the State prisoners are in possession of ample funds for their support. In Sydney, the sympathisers had set on foot a subscription for these prisoners.

The chief item of intelligence from *New Zealand* is an account of a hazardous expedition, which had been recently made by the Lieutenant-Governor:—After leaving the Wairau, and previous to starting into the pass which is supposed to exist between that place and the Port Copper Plains, his Excellency ascended the great snowy mountain which forms the principal peak of the Kaikoras, and which attains an elevation of at least 9000 feet, the upper part being covered with snow to a great depth. He succeeded in reaching the top of the mountain, but so late as to be unable to push on to the southern edge of the summit, when an extensive view southwards would have been obtained. In returning, a steep face of the hill (little less than perpendicular), down which hung a bed of frozen snow, had to be crossed for a considerable distance. Mr. Eyre, who had led the party up the dangerous ascent, was in advance with one native, the others being 200 feet before and behind him, on the same perpendicular of the snow. He heard a cry, and looking round, saw Wiremu Hoeta, a native guide, falling down the precipice, pitching from ledge to ledge, and rolling over and over in the intervals, till he fell dead at a depth below of about 1500 feet, where, though visible, it was impossible to get at his body. His Excellency narrowly escaped from similar destruction. He completely lost his footing, and only saved himself by the use of an iron-shod pole which he carried. Another of the natives had a still narrower escape, having actually fallen about fifteen yards, when he succeeded in clutching a rock and saving himself. The gloom which this unfortunate event caused, and the uncertainty of crossing the rivers while the snows are melting, induced his Excellency to return.

The intelligence of the revocation of the order in council which made *the Cape of Good Hope* a convict colony, was received with every demonstration of rejoicing. The Neptune, which contained the first batch of the convicts, sailed on the 21st February, after a detention in Simon's Bay of five months and two days. A sum of 100*l.* was subscribed by the inhabitants, to be distributed amongst the convicts on their arrival at Van Diemen's Land. A general illumination took place on the evening of that day. The houses, from the highest to the lowest, were in a blaze of light; and the inhabitants promenaded the streets until a late hour. A number of ministers and their congregations kept the day as one of religious thanksgiving.

Advices from *Natal* to the 18th of January are favourable. Trade with the interior was increasing, and the Boers in some of their original districts were again quietly settling down to farming pursuits. The experiment of taxing the natives had worked well, and the amount of the collections just ended was, in money and cattle, 3,684*l.* Land had risen in value during the year, and although there had been no instances of rapid wealth among the settlers, all had succeeded to a fair extent. Cotton had not been so much attended to as had been anticipated, but this, it is said, was to be attributed to the general demand which existed for other farming products.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

A considerable increase has of late been perceptible in *Emigration to Natal.* The tide in that direction flows unabated; and not only are emigrants flocking thither in search of a new field for their labour and energies, but many are possessed of capital which they intend employing in farming, cotton-growing, and in various ways, with a view to a well-organised system of general colonisation. Materials of various descriptions are also being sent out plentifully for the requirements of the colony. The number of vessels already despatched to Natal by one firm alone is 12, all fully freighted with passengers. The total number of souls thus despatched to Natal within twelve months is 2,066; and there is every reason for believing, according to present appearances, that they will be speedily followed by many others anxious and ready to emigrate to a land where labour and capital are required and find ample and profitable employment. The latest accounts from the colony are up to the 12th of February, at which date many of the emigrants were settled upon their lands with every indication of ultimate success.

Thirty Female Emigrants selected by Mr. Sidney Herbert's committee departed on the 4th for Port Adelaide and Sydney, consisting nearly all of the class of needle-workers and stitchers. On the 10th sixty more were despatched from Gravesend for Port Philip and Sidney. This was the third batch. About 120 females have been sent out in all, and several others are now on the eve of departure.

The British Ladies' Female Emigration Society held its first annual meeting at Willis's Rooms; the Duke of Argyll in the chair. This society was "not established with any view of directly promoting emigration," but "originated in an earnest desire on the part of several benevolent individuals, to elevate the character of those who are leaving their native country, and who will form the basis from which society in our colonies is to be built up." It recognises the fact that a large emigration is going on; and it seeks to provide an agency of moral improvement to the emigrants by establishing homes for the reception of female emigrants before they leave this country, by providing visitation at the ports, and the supply of means for instruction and employment during the voyage, and the appointment of chosen matrons, and by forming corresponding societies in the Colonies, to receive, protect, and assist the emigrants on their arrival. The report stated that 1,070*l.* had been received and expended in this useful work.

The *Canterbury Association*, for establishing a settlement in New Zealand on Church-of-England principles, held a meeting in St. Martin's Hall, on the 17th. The Chairman was Lord Lyttelton; among the gentlemen on the platform were the Bishop of Norwich, the Bishop of Oxford, Mr. Sidney Herbert, Lord Wodehouse, Lord Courtenay, Mr. Adderley, and several other Members of Parliament. The plan of the settlement was explained

by the Chairman. The association had placed upon the whole of the extensive district held in trust for them, comprising considerably more than 2,000,000 acres, the price of 3*l.* an acre. This price, much higher than in our other colonies, arose from the distribution of certain proportions of it. One-sixth, or 10*s.*, was to go to the New Zealand Company as the actual price of the land; another sixth was to be applied to the general expenses of the association in this country and in the colony; one-third, or 1*l.*, was to be applied to promote emigration, in order to meet the demand for labour; and the remaining 1*l.* was to be devoted to the leading and cardinal feature of the undertaking—the provision, from the very beginning of the colony, of religious and educational establishments. An unexpected incident varied the proceedings with a little opposition. Mr. Sidney, the well-known writer on colonisation, rose in the body of the meeting, and entered a general protest against the Wakefield principles of colonisation—adopted by the founders of the Canterbury settlement, and avowed by the Bishop of Norwich and other speakers. There was some desire to hear Mr. Sidney, he was had up to the platform, and there finished his speech. This debating episode called forth the mover of the next resolution, the Bishop of Oxford, in a vivacious reply. Resolutions in furtherance of the Canterbury scheme were passed unanimously.

At present there is a great amount of *Emigration* from Ireland, chiefly of the middle class. The numbers of people who crowd the quays of Galway, securing passages across the Atlantic, are described by the *Galway Vindicator*, as exhibiting in their appearance "a degree of comfort and independence hitherto unknown among emigrants." Four hundred emigrants, chiefly of this class, sailed from that port in one week; and four more vessels, for different parts of America, were rapidly filling with passengers. The same state of things exists in Limerick. Since January last, upwards of 5000 persons had left that city to take shipping at Liverpool, besides the multitude sailing directly from the Shannon for America.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

EUROPEAN history would have consigned the present month to oblivion but for his Holiness the Pope. April would have shared the collapse into which public affairs have been gradually subsiding from the throes of 1848, had not Pio Nono—after nearly a year of procrastination, protestation, and negotiation—actually entered Rome; which he did on the 12th.

In other parts of the Continent little of political or social interest has actually occurred, although no one can look on the condition of our nearest neighbour, France, without apprehension. Trade and manufactures are reviving, in consequence of a healthy return from credit and bills to ready-money dealing, but the wide-spread distress of the agricultural population, and the equally expansive dissemination of Socialist principles, offer no hopeful prospect, even for an early future. The vivacity with which large sections of the people change from one opinion to another, is an element in their political condition which defies calculation and baffles the subtlest foresight. Reason and principle are less their guides than accident and passion. Of this our present Narrative presents two examples:—In one case the President regained, in a day, some of his lost popularity by showing a prompt sympathy with the survivors of a fearful catastrophe; and in the other, a sentimental appeal to the passions of the Paris constituency will perhaps be effectual in rescuing one of its seats in the Assembly from being occupied by a Socialist. In opposition to M. Eugene Sue, the novelist—stood, on the side of order, a candidate of respectability and talent. But, this advocate of mere moderation made no way against his opponent; and would inevitably have lost the election, had not his friends made a dash for something more dazzling. They snatched a new candidate from comparative obscurity—a man who, at the barricades of February, having had one son killed by his side, went home for another, with whom he finished the fight. This gentleman was received with acclamation; and solely on account of his single act of Romanesque hardihood—not on the ground of senatorial fitness—may succeed; happily, but accidentally, on the side of order.

"German unity" is being attempted in the parliament of Erfurt with that slow elaboration of details for which Germans are celebrated. While the upper and lower houses are nibbling at the minutiæ of the revised Imperial Constitution, Prussia and Austria are, by a succession of comprehensive intrigues, making the measure more and more difficult of attainment.

The calm current of events on the shores of the tideless Mediterranean, which has recently been ruffled by the Græco-Britannic "difficulty," promises to resume its tranquil flow. French mediation is said to have smoothed the way for adjustment, but M. Pacifico's bill is to be very severely taxed before it is paid. On the opposite shore, the shrewd Pacha of Egypt—foreseeing, perhaps, the remote possibility of the junction of the Red Sea with the Gulph of Gaza by means of a ship canal, and the consequent diversion of the great Indian transit from the heart of his dominions—has projected several improvements in the route from Alexandria to Suez.

The Indian Mail announces to us the appearance of a new Morning Newspaper in the capital of the Celestial Empire. Its advent took place on the first day of the new year. It is called the Pekin Monitor, and, though a government organ, is not, like the Pekin Gazette, wholly filled with imperial mandates. The first number contains a significant sign of the times, in a stringent antidote to the Californian gold fever, which—as has been already learned by the influx of Chinese into St. Francisco—raged hotly in the "Middle Kingdom." It is an ordinance of the Emperor Toa-Kouang forbidding emigration either to California or Costa Rica.

"Vive la République Démocratique et Sociale!" This cry has gained utterance from a larger number of voices, and over a greater extent of *France*, than it obtained even in the time of the National Workshops. The recent elections for Paris, so decidedly favouring the socialist cause, contributed to this; and the flame has been fanned by the excitement of a new election. M. Vidal having been returned for two places, Paris and the lower Rhine, and he elected to sit for the latter. Symptoms of commotion induced the government to a despotic measure:—On Sunday the 1st, there was a *General Expulsion from Paris of Vagrants;* that is to say, unemployed workmen—native and foreign, returned convicts and mendicants. All the preliminary measures for the execution of this order had been taken by the police with the closest secrecy, and they performed their mission with a skill and completeness which only such a political police as that of Paris can manage. The seat-

tering of thousands of the poor and discontented over the country, is an effectual sending out of missionaries to preach the cause of disorder where comparative peace now reigns.

The sovereign people of the head-quarters of riot, the Faubourg St. Antoine, were not long in resenting this insult to those, many of whom they reckoned as friends. On the day following (Easter Monday) the concurrence of a ginger-bread fair at the Barrier du Trône in the above faubourg, and a grand military review by the President at Vincennes, brought out a vast concourse of holiday-makers. *The President was Insulted* in returning from the review while passing through the barrier. A multitude surrounded his carriage—an open one; and shook their fists in his face, and assailed him tumultuously with the last new popular interjection, to which they were pleased to add, "A bas le tyran!" Prince Louis Napoleon was not in the least ruffled either by anger or fear. His escort compelled the mob to fall back, and he proceeded on his way without further annoyance. General Changarnier, who preceded, had had a foretaste of this reception, and very likely to his spirited conduct may be attributed the easy manner in which the President was let off. When the shouting crowd gathered about him, he drew up his horse, and turned upon and menaced them with such stern determination, that they instantly fell back. Among them was a drunken soldier who neglected to salute him; Changarnier rode up to the fellow, removed his shako with the point of his sword, and then moved slowly on, amidst the applause of those who had previously hooted him.

Many indications showed a disposition among the army to support the socialist party not only in Paris but in the provinces. There was a *Mutiny in the 11th Infantry*. On the march of the 2nd battalion from Rennes to Toulon, on the 11th, the popular cry was raised by the common soldiers, urged on by the democrats of the town, and they insulted their officers. At Angers the men were entertained at a fête; and in the evening the soldiers and subaltern officers, accompanied by their entertainers, paraded the streets shouting again and again "Vive la République démocratique et sociale!" The Minister of War, on receiving intelligence of this affair, ordered the battalion to be disbanded, and the subalterns and soldiers drafted into the regiments at Algiers.

Besides this disgrace, an involuntary and *Appalling Calamity* befel this regiment. When the 3rd battalion was leaving Angers, on the 16th, at eleven o'clock in the morning they met a squadron of hussars coming from Nantes, which crossed over the suspension-bridge of the Basse Maine, without any accident. A fearful storm raged at the time. The last of the horses had scarcely crossed the bridge than the head of the column of the third battalion of the 11th appeared on the other side. Reiterated warnings were given to the troops to break into sections, as is usually done, but the rain falling heavily it was disregarded, and they advanced in close column. The head of the battalion had reached the opposite side,—the pioneers, the drummers, and a part of the band were off the bridge, when a horrible crash was heard; the cast-iron column of the right bank suddenly gave way, crushing beneath them the rear of the fourth company, which, with the flank company, had not stepped upon the bridge. To describe the frightful spectacle, and the cries of despair which were raised, is impossible. The whole town rushed to the spot to give assistance. In spite of the storm, all the boats that could be got at were launched to pick up the soldiers in the river, and a great number who were clinging to the parapets of the bridge, or who were afloat by their knapsacks, were immediately got out. The greater number were, however, found to be wounded by the bayonets, or by the fragments of the bridge falling on them. As the soldiers were got out, they were led into the houses adjoining, and every assistance given. A young lieutenant, M. Loup, rendered himself conspicuous for his heroic exertions; and a young workwoman, at the imminent danger of her life, jumped into the water, and saved the life of an officer who was just sinking. A journeyman hatter stripped and jumped into the river, and, by his strength and skill in swimming, saved a great many lives. One of the soldiers, who had reached the shore unhurt, immediately stripped, and swam to the assistance of his comrades. The lieutenant-colonel, an old officer of the empire, was taken out of the river seriously wounded, but remained to watch over the rescue of his comrades. It appears that some people of the town were walking on the bridge at the time of the accident, for among the bodies found were those of a servant-maid and two children.

The following letter from the Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment gives a short but affecting account of the disaster. It is curious that the same officer (Col. Simonet) should have survived the terrible catastrophe which occurred at the battle of Leipsic, when Poniatowski and so many others were drowned in the Elster:—"Before entering the faubourg of Angers, an aide-de-camp of General Duzer came to me with an order to enter the town by the suspension-bridge, and to draw up my men on the Place d'Académie, where he proposed to review them. I had scarcely resumed my march by column in sections, when the weather, which had been before very fine, suddenly changed to a perfect tempest,—a furious wind and pouring rain. It was then half-past 11. It was under these gloomy auspices that I entered on the fatal bridge, after having stopped the band, and broken the regularity of the step, as is usual in such cases. The wind was so high that the floor of the bridge rose and fell from it so much that I had difficulty in keeping my seat on my horse. Scarcely had the section of the advanced guard, the pioneers, and the greater part of the band, reached the opposite bank of the river, when suddenly a horrible crash was heard, and the floor of the bridge gave way under our feet. With the exception of the head of the column and the two rear sections, all the rest of the battalion followed the movement of the floor of the bridge, and fell into the water. Ah, General, what a spectacle! Never was there a more heart-rending one. My poor mare turned over, left me in the water, and then suddenly rising nearly crushed me. I rose and endeavoured to catch her, but Captain Desmarest, my adjutant-major, who was marching behind me, and to whom I owe my life at this moment, seizing me by the arm, drew me forcibly to the left side of the bridge (the water was then up to my armpits); then, assisted by some soldiers, I was lifted into a small boat, when one of the inhabitants, an old soldier, received me in his arms in a fainting state. Thence I got into a washerwoman's boat, and then gained the shore. I was saved, but too earnestly occupied with the fate of my children, my friends, and my comrades, to think of accepting the assistance which was eagerly offered me by the inhabitants and the officers of the garrison."

When the muster-roll was called, it was found that there were 219 soldiers missing, whose fate was unknown. There were, besides, 33 bodies lying in the hospital, and 30 wounded men; 70 more bodies were found during the morning, 4 of whom were officers. The President of the Republic set out for Angers, to see the extent of the disaster. He arrived on Thursday night (18th). The list of the dead was at his request given to him. He passed the whole morning in visiting the hospital where the wounded are taken care of. He was accompanied by the Minister of War and the general officer commanding the department of the Maine and Loire. The orderly officers of the President also visited the private houses where the wounded took refuge. The greatest attentions were paid to the unfortunate survivors. The kindly feeling shown by the Prince produced the best effect.

The funeral of the victims took place on the 19th. 182 corpses were buried, and followed by an immense population. All the shops were closed, and the town wore an appearance of deep sorrow. The usual military honours were paid as the dead were laid in their graves The prompt sympathy shown by Louis Napoleon for the survivors of this great fatality help materially to regain that popularity he was fast losing. On his return to Paris he was well received. On the other hand, the disaster was basely taken hold of to damage the government.

M. Proudhon was arrested on the 18th, and sent to the fortress of Doullens, for having charged the ministry in his own paper, the "Voix du Peuple," with having occasioned the disaster of Angers by sending the 11th

Regiment of Light Infantry to Africa. In a letter from prison he acquitted the government of design in producing the catastrophe, but in a tone which hinted the possibility of so diabolical a crime having been meditated.

On Sunday evening, the 21st, a considerable sensation was created on the Boulevards by the measures taken by the Prefect of Police to prevent the sale of the *Evénement* and the *Estafette*, evening papers. All newsvendors found in possession of either of these papers, and not being the possessors of shops, had their papers seized, and were themselves conducted to prison. The *sergens de ville* examined every news' stall in the Boulevards, and wherever they found copies of the proscribed papers they seized them, demolished the stall, and conducted the proprietor to the Prefecture of Police. The only apparent ground for these proceedings is, that the papers in question oppose the government. The *Evénement* is edited by M. Victor Hugo and his son.

A *Notorious Murderer* has been arrested in France, whose mysterious and criminal career would afford the materials for a romance. He was taken at Ivry, in virtue of a writ granted by the President, on the demand of the Sardinian government, having been condemned for a murder under extraordinary circumstances. He was arrested in 1830, at Chambery, his native town, for being concerned in a murder; but he escaped from the prison of Bonneville, where he was confined, and by means of a disguise succeeded in reaching the town of Chene Tonnex, where he went to an inn which was full of travellers. There being no vacant beds, the innkeeper allowed him to sleep in a room with a cattle-dealer, named Claude Duret. The unfortunate cattle-dealer was found dead in the morning, he having been smothered with the mattress on which he had slept. He had a large sum of money with him, which was stolen, and this, as well as his papers, had, no doubt, been taken by Louis Pellet, who had disappeared. Judicial inquiries ensued, and the result was that Louis Pellet, already known to have committed a murder, was condemned, *par contumace*, to ten years' imprisonment at the galleys by the senate of Chambery. In the mean time Louis Pellet, profiting by the papers of the unfortunate Claude Duret, contrived to reach Paris, when he opened a shop, where he organised a foreign legion for Algeria, enrolled himself under the name of his victim, and sailed for Oran in a government vessel. From this time up to 1834 all trace of him was lost. He came to Paris, took a house, amassed a large sum of money, and it turns out he was mixed up with a number of cases of murder, swindling, and forgery. These facts came to the knowledge of the police, owing to Pellet having been taken before the Correctional Police for a trifling offence, when he appealed against the punishment of confinement for five days. The French government immediately sent an account of the arrest of this great criminal to the consul of the government of Savoy resident at Paris.

"*German Unity*" is as far from being cemented as it was when first so enthusiastically broached by the King of Prussia. That monarch, at the end of last month, sent a reply to the collective note of the Kings of Wurtemberg, Bavaria, and Saxony, in which he declares formally that he will never consent to the Austrian monarchy as a collection of states entering the new Germanic union. The parliament of Erfurt is still engaged in revising the details of the imperial constitution.

The only material article of *Spanish Intelligence* is the restoration of diplomatic relations with England. The first advances were made by General Narvaez, and readily responded to by Lord Palmerston. Notes, containing mutual explanations and expressions of amity, were exchanged; in short, none of the formularies usual on such occasions were omitted.

The arrivals from *Lisbon* were to the 14th. Count Thomar has been defeated in his *Project of Crippling the Press*, it having been rejected in the upper chamber, but new peers are to be made to force the measure through the house.—For some time past *Don Miguel* has been dependent, in a great measure, upon a few of his partisans in Portugal for his support, who have generously subscribed money on his behalf, and transmitted it to him in this country. Those individuals have received intimation from the government, that they must henceforth discontinue such acts of benevolence, or they will be proceeded with "for aiding and assisting illegal associations for treasonable purposes."

At last the Pope has returned to Rome. His Holiness arrived on the 12th; on the day previous, thousands of people from the surrounding country were assembled in the streets, shouting "Pio Nono!" with the utmost excitement. As the Pope moved along he dispensed his blessing to the right and to the left. It was four o'clock when he entered Rome. The French and Papal troops were drawn up on the Piazza Lateranense, and presented arms, while the salutes from the French artillery and the guns of Castel St. Angelo rent the air, mingling with the solemn sound of the bells. Cardinal Barberini, arch-priest of the Basilica of Lateran, received the Pope at the head of his chapter, while the provisional municipal commission presented to him the keys of the Eternal City. On alighting from his carriage, his Holiness was received by the cardinals of the Commission of State, and by the Cardinal Vicar, preceded by all the secular and regular clergy of the capital. At the vestibule he received the homage of the diplomatic body. He then received the holy benediction in the church, which he afterwards left, and returned to his carriage. The procession then went to the basilica of the Vatican by the Strada San Giovanni, the Amphitheatre of Flavius, the Arco di Pantani, the Piazza Traiana, Piazzo degli Apostoli, and Strada Papale. As his Holiness approached the steps of St. Peter the sky suddenly overcast and some drops of rain fell. A crimson umbrella was raised over his head, and Cardinal Mattei, the arch-priest of St. Peter's, at the head of his canons, accompanied him up the steps, at the top of which the pavement was covered with camelias and other choice flowers tastefully arranged. His Holiness hesitated to tread upon this brilliant carpet, but at length moved forward; and the surrounding prelates and grandees hastened to pick up each a flower, as a relic sanctified by the Pontiff's feet, the moment he had passed over them. On entering the church the Pope was received by the sacred college of cardinals, the papal choir sang St. Augustin's Prayer, and subsequently the Ambrosian Hymn, with the responses of the congregation. His Holiness then received the blessing of the Holy Sacrament, witnessed the exhibition of the four principal relics, kissed the bronze foot of St. Peter's statue, and eluded the mass of people who were waiting for him at the gate of the Capella del St. Sagramento by passing through the small door of the Capella della Madonna, and so entering the Vatican palace, accompanied by the Sacred Colleges and the *corps diplomatique*. In the evening, the cupola of St. Peter's, the Capitol, the Strada di Borgo Nuovo, the Monte Pincio, the Piazza del Popolo and the Via Condotti were illuminated. In the streets much eager curiosity was exhibited, but little enthusiasm; the multitude seemed more occupied in gazing on the pageant than in thinking of the circumstances which had given rise to it. Handkerchiefs in abundance were waved by ladies at the windows; but the cheers of the people in the streets were only occasional and partial. Within the walls of St. Peter's, however, the scene became highly impressive. When his Holiness stood in that sublime edifice, the assembled thousands appeared truly impressed with the grandeur of the scene. The word of command given to the troops rang through the immense building, then the crash of arms, and every man knelt for some moments amid a breathless silence, only broken by the drums, which rolled at intervals. The illumination which followed was very beautiful, not from the brilliancy of the lights, but from its being so universal. St. Peter's was but partially lighted; but as the wind played among the lamps, and the flames flickered and brightened in the breeze, the effect from the Pincian was singularly graceful. The Campodoglio, that centre of triumph, was in a blaze of glory, and the statues of the mighty of old stood darkly and solemnly forth in the sea of light. But one by one the lamps died out, the silence and the darkness of the night resumed their sway, and the glory of the day became the history of the past. As the lamps

died out one by one, and the gazing multitudes retired, the stillness and darkness of the night contrasted strikingly with the bustle and splendour of this remarkable day. No disturbance whatever occurred. An atttempt was made on the same night to set fire to the Quirinal. One of the French sentries on duty, having observed some persons busy about the iron grating which communicates with the wood cellars of the palace, advanced to challenge them, upon which they took to flight, leaving some faggots and flasks of turpentine behind them, other materials of the same nature having already been thrown down into the cellars below. There would have been probably no fear of a conflagration taking place, had fire been actually set to the wood cellars, as the solid stone arches of which the palace foundations are constructed would effectually resist the fury of the flames. On the same night, at about eleven, a momentary alarm was created in the city by the report of a grenade, which exploded in the Vicolo dello Sdrucciolo, a lane behind the Chigi Palace, breaking all the windows in the neighbourhood, but injuring no individual. On the day following, the Pope was engaged in receiving a variety of deputations. Rome was illuminated three nights in succession. The Swiss guards at the gates of the Vatican received strict orders to subject all persons seeking admission to a severe scrutiny. Other precautions have been taken to insure the safety of his Holiness, the kitchen department forming an especial point of surveillance. A new cook has been appointed, and all communication with outer persons and objects has been carefully cut off by bars, gratings, and a *ruota* or wheel, through which the viands are revolved into the Papal kitchen. On Thursday, the 18th, his Holiness was to go through the ceremony of giving the Papal benediction to the French army. General Baraguay d'Hilliers was to leave Rome for France on the 25th.

The advices from *Athens* represent the adjustment of the claims of this country on the Greek Government as still in progress. All the claims, it is said, will be recognised except that of M. Pacifico's, which are objected to as exorbitant. This, to some extent, has been admitted by Mr. Wyse; and, if any indemnity is granted to M. Pacifico, it is expected to be a small one. The interruption to trade occasioned by the blockade of the ports is said to have reduced the country to great distress.

There are accounts from Egypt to the 6th. The Pacha, who had been residing at his new palace in the Desert, had returned to Cairo. The proximity of his residence has drawn his attention to the *Improvement of the Overland Route;* and he has said that means must be adopted to reduce the period of travelling between the ships in the Mediterranean and Red Sea to 60 or 65 hours, instead of 80 or 85 hours. He has sent a small landing steamer to ply in Suez harbour; and he is causing the work of Macadamising the Desert road to be proceeded with vigorously. An agreement has been made with contractors to enlarge the station-houses on the Desert, so as to admit of the necessary stabling accommodation for eight or ten relays of horses, instead of four or five, by which means fifty or sixty persons will be moved across in one train, instead of, as at present, half that number. Mules again are to be substituted for baggage camels in the transport of the Indian luggage and cargoes, with the view to a reduction of the time consumed in this operation between Suez and Cairo, from 36 to 24 hours. It is easy to perceive the benefits which will be derived from these measures.

The intelligence which this month has produced from the AMERICAN CONTINENT is more varied than startling. The United States journals are copiously occupied with reports of the trial at Boston of Professor Webster for the *Murder of Dr. Parkman.* It lasted twelve days. The annals of crime present few more remarkable cases. On the 23rd of November last, Dr. Parkman, a professor in the college at Boston, disappeared unaccountably. After some days rewards were advertised for his discovery, and suspicion began to be directed to one of his fellow-professors, Dr. Webster, and a search was made in the college buildings. The janitor was directed to break through a partition-wall into a vault which communicated with a privy belonging to Dr. Webster's apartments. In a hole which had been made in that wall there were found the thorax and thigh of a human being, with some pieces of flesh. In the furnace of his laboratory other fragments were found in a partially consumed state; and among them the remains of a set of artificial teeth attached to a human jaw. Other fragments were found in a box concealed under a heap of tan bark; a dirk-knife was also found. Dr. Webster was then arrested. On the trial one of the coroners of the county gave an account of Dr. Webster's appearance and conduct after his arrest: he said, "I saw Professor Webster in the gaol, and found him lying on his face, apparently in very great distress. Dr. Gay, who was with me, endeavoured to soothe his feelings, and requested him to get up. The doctor said he was unable to get up. He was agitated, and trembled more than any man I ever saw before, and exclaimed, 'What will become of my poor family?' He was then assisted up stairs, for he was nearly helpless. Somebody offered him water, but he was so agitated he could not drink—he passed the glass from him, and spilt some on his clothes." The dentist who made Dr. Parkman's artificial teeth proved those found in the college to have been his. Another witness recognised the dirk-knife as the property of Dr. Webster, and said that fresh oil and whiting were on it, as if an attempt had been made to clean it. A number of witnesses, examined respecting the pecuniary transactions of the parties, proved that Dr. Webster was considerably indebted to Parkman, who had been pressing for payment. Dr. Parkman's brother gave an account of an interview with Dr. Webster, who had called upon him while the search for Dr. Parkman was going on, to state that he had seen the deceased on the Friday, the day of his disappearance, by appointment, and had paid him money. But such accounts were given, by bankers and others, of Webster's circumstances and recent pecuniary transactions, as made it next to impossible that this assertion could be true.

For the defence a number of witnesses were examined as to the prisoner's character, and to shake the evidence for the prosecution. The jury, after three hours' deliberation, found him guilty; and the judge pronounced sentence of death. "The effect of the sentence," says the New York Herald, "on the prisoner was overwhelming. He sank to his seat, and for a few moments wept in agony. The scene was one of awful solemnity."

A remarkable but not sufficiently authenticated story, which did not come out on the trial, is mentioned in the American papers. Dr. Webster was seen by a medical student in the act of perpetrating the murder. The young man, it is said, was returning to the lecture-room for his over-shoes, and found the door locked. He then went down through the basement into the lower laboratory, and passed upstairs to enter the lecture-room by Dr. Webster's private door. As he got into the upper laboratory, he saw Dr. Webster standing over the corpse of Parkman. Either by entreaty or threats, the student was induced to take a solemn oath not to divulge what he had seen, and the next day he left for Boston. A short time since he was taken with brain fever, and in his delirium raved about the mysterious murder. He called for a clergyman, and asked him if he was bound to keep such an oath as he described. The result was, that he divulged all to the minister, who came to Boston and informed the government, but it was too late to use the evidence. The name of the medical student is said to be Hodges. He belongs to Bridgewater, and is the son of a minister.

No event of grave political import is recorded in the month's advices from the States except the *Death of Mr. Calhoun* one of the greatest of the American Statesmen. He died at Washington on the morning of Sunday the 31st of March. During the funeral solemnities the offices of all the public departments were closed, and, as well as the President's Mansion, hung with black. His remains were deposited in the cemetery of Congress. He was of Irish extraction, and was born in North Carolina, in 1782. In 1811 he was admitted to the bar of South Carolina, and became a member of the Legislature of that State, and then of Congress, where he soon distinguished himself. He became Secretary at War in 1817, and Vice-President in 1825. He entered the Senate

in 1831, and was Secretary of State for a short time under President Tyler.

The Senators of the gold country having made a formal demand for the *Admission of California into the Union*, the measure has been under discussion in Congress; there seems little doubt that the proposed junction will be effected. An official document states that all the gold-dust which had been received at the United States Mint amounted in value to no more than 11,379,129 dollars. Neither, if our own eminent Geologist, Sir Roderick Murcheson, do not err, is the store inexhaustible. He has shown from known geological facts, that the greatest part of the gold is not in mines, but in the gravel and sand which cover the surface, and form the detritus of the summits of former mountains; and that, consequently, the supply of gold may be exhausted in no great number of years. Still emigration to California, from the United States, continues undiminished.

But we learn from *California* itself that the state of society there is by no means encouraging to well-disposed adventurers. Not more than one person in nine or ten can be called fortunate in searching for gold, and many of these afterwards get fleeced at the gambling tables of San Francisco; women (especially Mexican) gamble there as well as men; the merchants get most of the gold-dust that is brought home—the diggers being little more than their purveyors. The market is fast getting glutted with all kinds of goods—many lots being spoiled by exposure in the rain. There are people of all nations besides Americans, especially Peruvians, Chilians, Sandwich Islanders, Hindoos, Chinese, English, French, Italians, Spaniards, and a pretty strong "delegation" of convicts from New South Wales. At San Francisco there had been three suicides, and in the mines two murders Bull, cock, and bear fights are in full vogue, and especially by the fair sex. In one of them, a bull of immense magnitude and power was let loose on an old Spanish bull-fighter and clown. In an attempt, on foot, to thrust a short spear into his neck, the man's foot slipped, and the bull thrust him against the rude fence with such violence, that he survived the injury but a short time. This, to the women, seemed the climax of amusement, and the exhibition terminated amid shouts of applause.

From *Mexico*, the bondholders of that state were not pleased to hear that a new Minister of Finance was appointed on the 1st ult., who, it was thought, would not have sufficient vigour to organise the finances of the country in a satisfactory manner. The *cholera* was on the increase in the vicinity of Mexico City. The *Indian depredations* were still the cause of constant alarm.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

OUR recapitulation of the leading publications of the month sufficiently indicates its topics of literary interest; but these will yield, in the estimation of most readers, to the feeling awakened by the death of Wordsworth. The great poet had very recently completed a revision of his writings; but a few days before his last illness had celebrated his eightieth birthday; and has passed to his final rest in the fulness of his fame.

To the subject of the Fine Arts attention has been more than ordinarily directed by occasional discussions raised in the House of Commons, and the result has been Lord John Russell's declaration of the intention of Government to appropriate the whole of the building in Trafalgar Square to the reception of the pictures belonging to the nation. The Royal Academy will have to provide itself with a building elsewhere, but it will receive a vote of money in compensation for its loss of the tenement guaranteed to it by George the Third, and its removal will not be insisted on without due notice and preparation. Meanwhile the Vernon Gallery is to receive shelter in Marlborough House, which, when all the arrangements now in prospect are completed, is to be set apart for the establishment of the Prince of Wales. Another evidence of the growing interest of the public in matters of this nature is the change and improvement now promised in the management of the British Museum, where a "responsible executive council" is recommended as a substitute for the irresponsible mismanaging trustees. But the most remarkable and gratifying indication of the same excellent spirit is the announced determination of the prime minister to issue a Commission for the collection of evidence as to the existing state of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

The PUBLICATIONS OF THE MONTH have not been numerous, but they comprise several books of higher pretension than usual both in respect of subject and treatment.

Mr. Charles Merivale has completed a portion of his *History of the Romans under the Empire*, which appears in two octavo volumes, and embraces the period from the first Triumvirate to the death of Julius Cæsar. It might be described as a history of the life and times of the greatest of the Romans, of the revolution which his genius brought about in the character of his countrymen as well as of their institutions, and of his assassination at the summit of human power and glory. Cæsar is the central figure throughout, and the view taken of his character and genius is extremely favourable. It may be worth remarking, that Mr. Merivale describes with some care the person and countenance of his hero; and tells us to rely less on the coins,—from which we derive our common notions of the vivid animation and heroic majesty of Cæsar's lineaments,—than upon the still remaining busts, which represent a long thin face, with a forehead rather high than capacious, furrowed with strong lines, and marked by an expression of patient endurance and even suffering, such as might be expected from frequent illness, and from a life of toil not unmingled with dissipation. He was pale in complexion ("wrought in him with passion," as Marlowe so grandly describes his conqueror Tamburlaine); had a tall and spare figure, and dark piercing eyes; was not only without beard, but was very scantily supplied with hair; and did his best to conceal this baldness, which the ancients regarded as a deformity, by combing his locks over the crown of his head.—Mr. Merivale's History will extend, in subsequent publications, to the transfer of the seat of empire from Rome to Constantinople.

Another book on a great classical subject, not unworthily treated, is the first portion of Mr. Mure's *Critical History of the Language and Literature of Ancient Greece*, which has made its appearance in three octavo volumes. The plan of this history embraces six periods, of which the part now published contains the first and second, or Mythical and Poetical periods, devoted to the earliest authenticated productions of Greek poetical genius, and terminating in point of time at about the middle of the fifth century before Christ; the four remaining periods, the Attic, Alexandrian, Roman, and Byzantine, to be included in subsequent publications. Thus the complete history will extend from the primeval growth of the language, with the influences which modified its early culture and stamped the peculiar genius of the people upon it, down to the period when the decay and corruption of ancient civilisation finally extinguished it as a living language. In the portion now given to the public, Homer is the theme most prominently discussed; and certainly there exists in no other English book so detailed an examination and analysis of the Iliad and Odyssey. It is to be regretted that Mr. Mure should too exclusively have addressed himself to scholars, by leaving his extracts untranslated;

for the variety and comprehensiveness of his treatment of these earliest and greatest productions of the human intellect would have interested all classes of readers. He leaves nothing untouched—the origin of the poems, the purpose and unity of the action, the divine mechanism employed, the style and its various elements, the concordance, discordance, and interpolations of the text, and the biography and influence of the writer—fifteen chapters are occupied with these various discussions; and it is almost needless to add, that Mr. Mure strongly opposes the Wolfian theory, arguing for the individuality of Homer's authorship, and for the personality of Homer himself. Apart from this great theme, and that of the Homeric Hymns and Hesiod, we have an outline of the history of lyric poetry, in its connexion with the arts of music and dancing, a review of the more remarkable occasions or objects of lyric celebration, and biographical notices of the more distinguished lyric poets. To the extracts given from the latter, Mr. Mure has appended careful translations by himself; and in a series of appendices to each volume he has dealt with the leading matters of dispute and controversy connected with his subject.

Mr. Coleridge's daughter has collected such of her father's supposed writings in the Watchman, Morning Post, and Courier, ranging between the years 1795 and 1817, as could with any certainty be identified for his, and, with such as he avowed by his signature, has published them in three duodecimo volumes, as *Essays on his own Times*, or a second series of *The Friend*. They are dedicated to Archdeacon Hare, and embody not a little of that system of thought, or method of regarding public affairs from the point of view of a liberal and enlarged Christianity, which is now ordinarily associated with what is called the German party in the English Church. Mr. Coleridge's daughter thinks that these essays establish her father's virtual consistency, and in one sense they do. His habits of thinking were always the same; but in proportion as his perceptive or imaginative powers predominated, their respective influences may be curiously traced in the results to which they brought him. The volumes are, in any case, not only a valuable contribution to the history of a very remarkable man's mind, but also to the history of the most powerful influence now existing in the world—the Newspaper Press. But to the latter the past month has also contributed a more regular and direct illustration in the shape of two post octavo volumes by Mr. F. Knight Hunt, entitled *The Fourth Estate*. Mr. Hunt describes his book very fairly as contributions towards a history of newspapers, and of the liberty of the press, rather than as a complete historical view of either; but he has had a proper feeling for the literature of his subject, and has varied his entertaining anecdotes of the present race of newspaper men, with extremely curious and valuable notices of the past.

Of books on mixed social and political questions the most prominent has been a new volume of Mr. Laing's *Observations on the Social and Political State of the European People*, devoted to the last two years (from the momentous incidents of which Mr. Laing derives sundry warnings as to the instability of the future, the necessity of changes in education and political arrangements, and the certain ultimate predominance of material over imaginative influences in the progress of civilisation, which his readers will very variously estimate, according to their habits of thinking); and Mr. Kay's collections of evidence as to the present *Social Condition and Education of the People in England and Europe*, which he has published in two thick post octavo volumes, and the object of which is to show that the results of the primary schools, and of the system of dividing landed property, existing on the continent, has been to produce a certain amount of mental cultivation and social comfort among the lower classes of the people abroad, to whichthe same classes in England can advance no claim whatever. The book contains a great deal of curious evidence in support of this opinion.

Of works strictly relating to modern historiy the first volume of General Klapka's memoirs of the *War in Hungary*, and a military treatise by Colonel Cathcart on the *Russian and German Campaigns of* 1812 *and* 1813, may be mentioned as having authority. Klapka was a distinguished actor in the war he now illustrates by his narrative, and Colonel Cathcart saw eight general actions lost and won in which Napoleon commanded in person.

In the department of biography the principal publications have been a greatly improved edition of Mr. Charles Knight's illustrations of the *Life of Shakespeare*, with the erasure of many fanciful, and the addition of many authentic, details; a narrative of the *Life of the Duke of Kent*, by Mr. Erskine Neale, in which the somewhat troubled career of that very amiable prince is described with an evident desire to do justice to his character and virtues; and a *Life of Dr. Andrew Combe*, of Edinburgh, an active and benevolent physician, who led the way in that application of the truths and teachings of physiology to health and education, which has of late occupied so largely the attention of the best thinkers of the time, and whose career is described with affectionate enthusiasm by his brother Mr. George Combe.—Not as a regular biography, but as a delightful assistance, not only to our better knowledge of the wittiest and one of the wisest of modern men, but to our temperate and just judgments of all men, we may mention the publication of the posthumous fragments of Sydney Smith's *Elementary Sketches of Moral Philosophy*.

To the department of poetry, Mr. Browning's *Christmas Eve and Easter Day* has been the most prominent addition. But we have also to mention a second and final volume of *More Verse and Prose* by the late Corn-law Rhymer; a new poetical translation of *Dante's Divine Comedy*, by Mr. Patrick Bannerman; and a dramatic poem, called the *Roman*, by a writer who adopts the fictitious name of Sydney Yendys, on the recent revolutionary movements in Italy. In prose fiction the leading productions have been a novel on social life in America, by Mr. Cooper, called the *Ways of the Hour;* one entitled the *Initials*, depicting German social life, by a new writer; and an historical romance, called *Reginald Hastings*, of which the subject is taken from the English civil wars, by Mr. Eliot Warburton.

The FINE ARTS have taken an unusually wide field lately, and art progresses, like railways, by the mile. The *Moving Panorama* mania with which English artists were bitten by Mr. Banvard, showed itself very strongly at Easter. Several canvas locomotives were set a going on Easter Monday, but for an account of them we cannot do better than refer our readers to Mr. Booley's experiences, as set forth in No. IV. of "Household Words."

Another instalment has been paid towards the completion of the *Nelson Column;* the second of the four bas-reliefs was put up at the commencement of the month in the base of the column, immediately facing the National Gallery. It is the work of Mr. Woodington. The subject is the Nile, and the incident that in which the surgeon of the ship is quitting a disabled sailor, that he might attend to the wounded Admiral. "No," said Nelson, "I will take my turn with my brave fellows." The subdued suffering and settled composure of the hero are well represented. The action is good, and the story well made out. Two other bas-reliefs, together with whatever else is necessary for the completion of the column, are left to posterity.

The *National Institution*, a society of artists who formerly exhibited their works under the name of "The Free Exhibition of Modern Art," opened on the 14th in Regent Street, a gallery of 373 pictures: those most admired are Mr. R. Scott Lauder, the President of the Association, "Galeotti, the Astrologer, showing Louis XI. the First Specimen of Printing," "Christ appearing to two of his Disciples, on the way to Emmaus." One novel feature of interest is found in the landscapes of the Williams family. Three brothers exhibit with their names; but others of the family have adopted assumed names, in order to prevent confusion. Most praise has been bestowed upon "Noon," by one brother; "A Scene in Sussex," by a second; and a "Woodland River," by a third. The other pictures are so well selected, that the gallery is full of interest. At the end of the season it is to be thrown open gratis, for a fortnight.

The Commissioners of Woods and Forests have received possession of Marlborough-house, from the officers of the late Queen Dowager's household; and it is understood that the *Vernon Collection* of pictures will be removed thither almost immediately.

In the Art-Journal for April is published the following statement of the number of *Pictures Imported* into the United Kingdom in the year 1849. From Prussia, 34; Germany, 1066; Holland, 1946; Belgium, 2420; France, 3498; Spain and Portugal, 326; Italy, 1723; other countries, 1678; total, 12691.

The *New Society of Water Colours* has opened its exhibition for this season. Miss Setchel, the painter of the well-known "Momentous Question," has another picture of the same class, "Jesse and Colin," the subject taken from Crabbe. Mr. Haghe's principal work is an eastern subject, a public reservoir attached to a mosque; but he has two pieces illustrating war in the seventeenth century, which attracted much notice. M. Vacher has a picture of the Bazaar of Algiers, with numerous groups of figures. Mr. E. H. Corbould has a number of pieces, of which the most remarkable is the "Country Girl." Mr. Absolom has depicted Joan of Arc in her prison. There are some excellent animal subjects by Mr. W. Harrison Weir; and landscapes by Mr. W. Bennett, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Penby, and others. Mr. Bennett's exited very considerable interest on the day of the private view. The exhibition, on the whole, is interesting.

A provincial paper mentions the discovery of the *Original Portrait of Charles the First* by Vandyck, lost in the time of the Commonwealth, and which has been found at Barnstaple in Devonshire. It had been for many years in the possession of a furniture-broker in that town, from whom it was lately purchased by a gentleman of the name of Taylor, for two shillings. Mr. Taylor, the account adds, has since required 2000*l.* for it.

Mr. Layard and his party are still carrying on their *Excavations at Nineveh*. A large number of copper vessels beautifully engraved have been found, and a large assortment of fine slabs, illustrative of the rule, conquests, domestic life, and arts of the ancient Assyrians, are daily coming to light, and are committed to paper by the able artist, Mr. Cooper, one of the expedition. Mr. Layard intends to make a trip to Chaboor, the Chaboras of the Romans, and to visit Reish Aina, the Resen of Scripture, where he hopes to find a treasure of Assyrian remains.

The principal Musical Events of the month have been the concerts of the *Philharmonic Society*, on the 8th and 22nd. At the former the orchestral pieces (always the chief features of these concerts) were Spohr's third and Beethoven's fourth symphonies, Weber's overture to *The Ruler of the Spirits*, and Ries's overture to *Don Carlos*. Mr. Cooper played Mendelssohn's violin concerto with extraordinary vigour and effect. The singers were the Misses Williams, Mr. Benson, and Mr. Bodda. At the latter there was a greater display than usual of "native talent" both in composition and performance. Of the two symphonies one was by Haydn, and the other by Mr. Cipriani Potter, a work of great merit. Mr. Sterndale Bennett's fine "Caprice," for the pianoforte, with orchestral accompaniments, was played in a masterly style by Miss Kate Loder. The singers were Miss Catherine Hayes and Mr. Whitworth, who were greatly applauded, the one in the famous scena from Der Freischutz, and the other in Mozart's beautiful cantata "L'Addio." The Philharmonic Society is at present in a most flourishing condition. At the beginning of the season the subscription was almost filled up the day it was opened, and many persons have been unsuccessful in obtaining tickets.

The only Oratorio performed during the month by the "Sacred Harmonic Society," at Exeter Hall, has been Mendelssohn *Elijah*.

The "Beethoven Quartet Society," established seven or eight years ago by the late Mr. Alsager, to do honour to the composer's memory by the perfect performance of his works, commenced its meetings for this season on Wednesday evening the 17th, under the direction, as formerly, of M. Rousselot, the eminent violoncellist. Herr Ernst has been engaged as principal violin for the whole season,—an improvement of the plan, as unity and finish of execution can be obtained only by means of a permanent leader.

The "Musical Union," a society similar to the above, but wider in its range, has had two meetings this season, on the 9th and 23rd, under the direction of Mr. Ella. At its meetings, which are attended by very fashionable company, classical chamber compositions are performed by the most eminent instrumentalists of the day.

The benefit concerts are by far too numerous for separate mention; not unfrequently, at this season, there are three or four in a single evening.

Amongst the Theatres the two *Italian Operas* put forth their strength on re-opening after Easter. Her Majesty's commenced on the 2nd with Lucia di Lammermoor. Miss Catherine Hayes was the Lucia, and Mr. Sims Reeves the Edgardo; both native artistes, and both triumphantly successful—an unprecedented coincidence since the days of Billington and Braham.—On the 4th Sontag re-appeared, as Norina in Don Pasquale, and received an enthusiastic welcome.—On Tuesday, the 9th, Sontag performed Rosina in the Barbiere di Seviglia; on the Thursday following, Zerlina in Don Giovanni; and on Thursday the 18th, Susanna, in the Nozze di Figaro.

The Royal Italian Opera opened on Thursday, 4th, with Masaniello, an Italian version of Auber's Muette de Portici, in which the principal character was sustained by Signor Tamberlik, a tenor new to this country, who was successful.—On the 9th, the old favourites Grisi, Mario, and Tamburini made their re-entrée to Lucrezia Borgia, and were received with acclamations.

On Easter Monday the English Theatres were attended by holiday crowds, to enjoy the expected entertainments—extravagant parodies or burlesques of classical and heroic subjects. At the *Haymarket* there was a travestie of "Ivanhoe," in which Cedric, the Saxon, is a fine old English gentleman, a foe to railways and all new-fangled improvements; Isaac of York, an advertising clothier; Locksley, a leader of a "swell mob;" Richard, a swaggering man about town; John, a sort of ancient Widdicombe, or master of the tournaments; and Sir Brian, a minister of young France. The dramatic version of "The Vicar of Wakefield," by Stirling Coyne, was well produced at this theatre.—At *Drury Lane* came out an Eastern spectacle called "The Devil's Ring," full of diablerie and stage enchantment. Subsequently a melodramatic piece by Mr. Bernard, called "A Passing Cloud," was produced.—At the *Lyceum* there was a burlesque of "Cymon and Iphigenia," after Garrick, a charming jeu-d'esprit, in which some delicious old and now forgotten music of the Arne school is introduced.—At the *Princess's* "The Queen of the Roses" was a version of Hallevy's new opera La Fée aux Roses—without the music.—The *Adelphi* entertainment, called "Playing First Fiddle," is founded on the history of Lulli, the famous violinist, who, from being a cook-boy, became the leader of Louis XIVth's memorable band—the "four and twenty fiddlers" of the old ballad. The other theatre had entertainments of a similar cast.—Another piece, by Mr. Tom Taylor, founded on Goldsmith's novel, and previously produced at the *Strand Theatre*, continues to be performed there; also an interesting sketch, called "Poor Cousin Walter," in which Mrs. Stirling and Mr. Leigh Murray have the principal parts.

The St. James's, after a pleasant series of French comic operas, was re-opened after Easter with an excellent company for light French comedy and vaudeville. Two stars have appeared, M. Samson and Mdlle Denain, both of the Théatre Française. M. Samson is not only a first-rate comedian, but a distinguished dramatic author. He has appeared in two of his own pieces, "Un Veuvage," and "La Belle Mère et le Gendre," the original of our farce, "My Wife's Mother." Mdlle. Denain's acting is a fine specimen of French "genteel comedy," evincing grace and good breeding,—her principal performance, the "Marquise de Lemeterre," in the comedy of that name.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of April 2. WILLIAM BARNES, Hungerford, Berkshire, auctioneer.—JOHN CROSTHWAITE, Liverpool, merchant.—JOHN HOWARD, Leeds, cloth-merchant.—ANDREW PALMER, Great Hadham, Hertfordshire, grocer.—HENRY SPILLER, St. John's-wood-terrace, St. Marylebone, slater.—DAVID STEAD, George-street, Adelphi.—WILLIAM STUBBS, Chapel Allerton, Yorkshire, innkeeper.—THOMAS WILLIAMS, Sandiway, Cheshire, innkeeper.—JOHN YOUNG, Manby, Lincolnshire, innkeeper.

April 5. ELIAS BRIMSON, Tiverton, Devonshire, grocer.—JULES GEORGE GEYELIN, Liverpool, zinc worker.—WILLIAM GORDON, Gloucester, dealer in Berlin wool.—THOMAS LEWIS, Exeter, draper.—PHILEMON AUGUSTINE MORLEY, Great Bridge, Staffordshire, iron manufacturer.—JOSEPH NYE, Mill-pond-wharf, Surrey Canal, pump maker.—THOMAS WILLIAM SPENCER, Devonport, draper.—WILLIAM WALKER, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, innkeeper.

April 9. ROBERT DAVIES EVANS and DAVID MEREDITH EVANS, Wrexham, Denbighshire, drapers.—JOHN HARRIMAN, Nottingham, draper.—RICHARD THOMAS PETERS, High Holborn, hotel keeper.

April 12. HENRY BRADING, Shepherdess-walk, City-road, licensed victualler.—JOHN CLARKE, Stourbridge, Gloucestershire, grocer.—JAMES PASSAND HOLYLAND, Fore-street, City, innholder.—JAMES HONIBALL, Ingram-court, City, and Dunston, Durham, anchor and chain cable manufacturer.—WILLIAM JAMES, Newport, Monmouthshire, bonded storekeeper.—HENRY PARIS, Liverpool, grocer.—BENJAMIN SYMES SAUNDERS, Stawell, Somersetshire, quarryman.—PHILIP STANGER, EDWARD EVANS, and SOLOMON CROSS, Birmingham, manufacturers of crown and sheet glass.—JOHN DAY TEESDALE, Boston, Lincolnshire, horse-dealer.—JAMES GALLEY WATSON, Sunderland, grocer.

April 16. JOSEPH ARUNDELL, Titchfield, Hampshire, common brewer.—DAVID HENRY BERESFORD, Stockport, Cheshire, linen-draper.—ALEXANDER BROWN and WILLIAM TODD, Liverpool, provision merchants.—THOMAS COLLINGWOOD, Abingdon, Berkshire, butcher.—RICHARD DEAN, Church-st., Trinity-square, Southwark, builder.—JOSEPH DONOVAN, Oxford-street, fishmonger.—EDWARD HOILE and JOSEPH WONFOR, Battersea, manufacturing chemists.—CHARLES JOHN HUBBARD, Crutched-friars, City, and Saffron Walden, Essex, hop merchant.—WILLIAM JOHN ALFRED JOE, Merchant's-dock-lane, Deptford-green, and Bexley-heath, Kent, shipbuilder.—DANIEL TURTON JOHNSON, HENRY HILDITCH JOHNSON, and GEORGE HILDITCH JOHNSON, Aldermary Churchyard, Watling-street, wholesale tea dealers.—MATTHEW DIXON ROBINSON, Dudley, Worcestershire, confectioner.—BENJAMIN SYMES SAUNDERS, Stawell, Somersetshire, quarryman.—GEORGE ALEXANDER VON DOMMER, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchant.—GEORGE WILLIAMS, Woolwich-common, Kent, builder.

April 19. THOMAS WHITMORE ALPORT, Bristol, ironmonger.—JOHN ARNETT, St. Dunstan's-hill, City, Custom-house agent.—JAMES BIRD, Cwmaven, Glamorganshire, grocer.—ELIZABETH HART and MARTIN HART, Northwich, Cheshire, draper.—JOSEPH HOLROYD, Dalton, Yorkshire, cotton dyer.—WILLIAM JOHN ALFRED IVE (and not JOE, as advertised in last Tuesday's Gazette), Merchant's-dock-yard, Deptford-green, Kent, shipbuilder.—SAMUEL JACOBSON JACKSON, Richmond-buildings, Soho, picture dealer.—JAMES MCEVOY, Hulm, Lancashire, grocer.—SARAH PATTISON, Winchester, glazier.—WILLIAM RAWSON, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, cake and seed merchant. JOHN STORMONT, Shiffnal, Shropshire, iron manufacturer.—WILLIAM STORMONT, Shiffnal, Shropshire, iron manufacturer.—WILLIAM WILSON THOMPSON, Goole, Yorkshire, butcher.—CHARLES VEALS, Uffculme, Devonshire, baker.—GEORGE WINTER, Granville-square, Pentonville, merchant.

April 22. WILLIAM WALDEN, Park-place, Mile-end, brush manufacturer.—SAMUEL BROWNING, Farringdon, Berkshire, nurseryman.—JAMES POOLE and WALTER POOLE, Booth-street, Spitalfields, builders.—JOHN RICHARD WEST, Mill-wall, Poplar, block maker.—DAVID WILLIAMS, Bangor, Carnarvonshire, victualler.—WILLIAM SHARMAN, Hulm, near Manchester, builder.

THE STOCK AND SHARE MARKETS.

City, April 25.

There have been few fluctuations in the Money Market during the month. The opening price for Consols on the 1st was $96\frac{1}{8}$, but the troubled aspect of affairs in France caused on the same day a decline. Since then prices have been firm, owing to the numerous purchases of small amounts, usually made soon after the payment of the dividends. The quotations therefore now stand nearly as on the 1st of April.

Railway Shares steadily declined in price from the beginning to the 16th of the month, when sales took place to an extent that amounted to a panic. Then came a re-action which promised well; but within the last day or two these banks have turned out a large number of shares on which they had made advances, and this, added to a prevalent want of confidence in the management of certain lines, once more brought prices low.

The following Tables present the highest, lowest, and latest prices during the month:—

STOCKS.

	Prices During the Month.		
	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols	$96\frac{3}{8}$	$95\frac{3}{8}$	96
Three per Cent. Reduced	$95\frac{1}{4}$	$94\frac{5}{8}$	$95\frac{1}{8}$
Three and a quarter per Cents.	$97\frac{3}{8}$	$96\frac{5}{8}$	$97\frac{1}{4}$
Long Annuities	$8\frac{3}{16}$	$7\frac{15}{16}$	$8\frac{1}{8}$
Bank Stock	$207\frac{1}{2}$	205	$207\frac{1}{2}$
India Stock	268	266	268
South Sea Stock	$105\frac{3}{8}$	$105\frac{1}{8}$	$105\frac{1}{8}$
Exchequer Bills	71s. prm.	64s. prm	68s. prm.
India Bonds	95s. prm.	88s. prm.	92s. prm.

RAILWAYS.

Paid.		Highest.	Lowest	Latest.
100	Bristol and Exeter	65	65	65
50	Caledonian	$9\frac{1}{8}$	$6\frac{7}{8}$	$7\frac{1}{8}$
20	Eastern Counties	$7\frac{3}{8}$	$6\frac{7}{8}$	$7\frac{1}{8}$
50	Edinburgh and Glasgow	27	25	26
22	Great Northern	$7\frac{3}{8}$	$5\frac{1}{8}$	$6\frac{1}{8}$
100	Great North of England	222	215	217
100	Great Western	$55\frac{3}{4}$	46	51
50	Hull and Selby	97	94	95
50	Lancaster and Carlisle	52	51	$51\frac{3}{4}$
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	$34\frac{1}{2}$	31	$33\frac{1}{2}$
50	Leeds and Bradford	$98\frac{1}{2}$	$86\frac{1}{2}$	90
100	London, Brighton, and South Coast	$80\frac{1}{2}$	$75\frac{1}{2}$	78
$12\frac{3}{4}$	London and Greenwich	$10\frac{3}{4}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{5}{8}$
100	London and North Western	$105\frac{1}{4}$	$99\frac{1}{2}$	102
100	London and South Western	62	$55\frac{1}{4}$	59
100	Midland	$38\frac{1}{2}$	$30\frac{1}{4}$	$32\frac{3}{4}$
100	Norfolk	$26\frac{1}{4}$	25	$25\frac{1}{2}$
$17\frac{1}{2}$	North Staffordshire	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{8}$
25	Scottish Central	$12\frac{7}{8}$	$9\frac{5}{8}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$
$33\frac{1}{8}$	South Eastern	$14\frac{5}{8}$	$12\frac{1}{8}$	$13\frac{1}{4}$
47	South Wales	$20\frac{1}{2}$	17	$18\frac{1}{2}$
50	Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth	39	38	$38\frac{1}{2}$
25	York, Newcastle, and Berwick	$13\frac{1}{4}$	$10\frac{7}{8}$	$12\frac{1}{8}$
50	York and North Midland	$16\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{5}{8}$	$14\frac{3}{4}$

GRAIN.—PRICES PER QUARTER DURING THE MONTH.

	Lowest.	Highest.	Latest.
Wheat	45s.	34s.	35s. to 41s.
Rye	24s.	22s.	22s. to 24s.
Barley	26s.	17s.	17s. to 25s.
Malt	54s.	44s.	44s. to 54s.
Oats	19s.	14s.	15s. to 19s.

COMESTIBLES.—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt.
Irish, 40s. to 50s.
American — —
Butter, Carlow, per cwt., 72s. to 76s.
Beef, per 8 lbs., 2s. to 2s. 8d.
Cheese, per cwt., 60s. to 84s.
Dutch, per cwt., 50s.
Eggs, per 100, 5s. to 8s.
Flour, per 280 lbs., 36s. to 38s.
United States, per 196 lbs., 20s. to 23s.
Flour—Canadian, per 196 lbs., 21s. to 22s.
Ham, per cwt.
Irish, 58s. to 70s.
American, 34s.
Lamb, per 8 lbs., 5s.
Mutton, per 8 lbs., 2s. to 2s. 10d.
Potatoes, per ton, 80s. to 110s.
Pork, fresh, per 8 lbs., 2s. 4d. to 3s. 2d.
Salt, Irish, — —
American, 40s.
Veal, per 8 lbs., 2s. 4d. to 3s. 4d.

PRODUCE MARKET.

Colonial produce has been dull of sale during the month, and prices have declined. Ceylon Coffee which at first stood at 48s. was afterwards driven up by some speculative purchases to 55s., but the market since gradually gave way, and the last quotations are 46s. to 46s. 6d. Sugar scarcely sustained the March prices. In Tea more business has been done than for some time previous, supplies having come in freely. For gunpowder, and the fine kinds of tea, the tendency has been downward.

GROCERY.—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Tea.—Common Congou, per lb., $9\frac{1}{2}d.$ to 10d.
Souchong, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d.
Coffee, Fine, per cwt., 56s. to 66s.
Good ordinary, 44s. to 48s.
Molasses, 13s. to 16s.
Sugar, Loaf, per cwt., 48s. 6d. to 56s.
British plantation, 36s. to 42s.
Brazil, 36s. to 42s.

Candles, per 12 lbs., 4s. 6d. to 5s. | Coals, per ton, 13s. to 17s. 6d.

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Monthly Supplement to "*HOUSEHOLD WORDS*," *Conducted by CHARLES DICKENS.*

THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1850.] FROM THE 27TH APRIL TO THE 28TH MAY. [PRICE 2*d.*

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

THAT ingenious and estimable French publicist, M. Ledru Rollin, who has been living in London for some months at the particular request of a great many of his countrymen, has favoured the world with a not very flattering account of us, as the result of his personal observation. He says we are declining in every way. We are crumbling to pieces like Carthage, Venice, Holland, and Spain. Capital is destroying our working classes; with the repeal of the navigation laws we have lost our hold upon the sea; everybody in the cities and the rural districts is starving (he is credibly informed of this by correspondents of the *Morning Chronicle*); nothing good is doing in parliament; the whole body politic is corrupted by the aristocracy; a young unaristocratic man of talent cannot get to the bar, queen's counsel dare not plead against the sovereign, and the common people are not allowed to be jurymen: in short, we are going to the deuce as fast as we can. Such is M. Ledru Rollin's opinion of us; yet for a people in this condition, we have a tolerably hopeful summary to present at the close of this merry month of May. The reader shall judge.

It has been the month of meetings. Orators have been holding forth, at Exeter Hall and elsewhere, on every conceivable subject; and probably more money has been afloat for the behoof of eager applicants than since the year of railroad scrip. The protection of the Aborigines, the conversion of the Hindoos, and the education of the Negro; the relief of the governess, the artist, and the distressed man of letters; have given very various scope to charitable effort. Ragged School Unions, Protestant Associations, Roman Catholic meetings, Exhibitions of Industry, Sons of the Clergy, Colleges of University and King's, Benevolent Newsvenders, Savings Banks Promoters, Foreigners in Distress, Distressed Undertakers, Sanitary and Parliamentary Reformers, Advocates of universal Peace, and Celebrators of the triumphs of War, have held crowded assemblages of sympathy and charity. Hospitals and Societies without end, Ophthalmic, Orthopædic, Philanthropic, Bible, Christian, Caledonian, Unitarian, Humane, Mendicity, National, British and Foreign, and Agricultural; Homes for sailors, for shipwrecked fishermen, for penitent women, for trampers and beggars, for every class of Her Majesty's subjects; Model lodging houses, and Model proposals for the utmost extent of possible improvements; all have been active, earnest, and in their several ways successful. As for Parliament, of which our French critic speaks so contemptuously, a mere glance at the measures now completed or in progress, apart from the more leading topics to which we shall presently refer, will show that in really useful legislation we are making no inconsiderable advances. Convict prisons, and Crown Woods and Forests, Merchant Seamen and Irish Fishermen, National Schools and Official Salaries, Distressed Unions in Ireland and Improvement bills for Scotland, Charitable Trusts, Highways, Marriages, Libraries and Museums, Factories, Savings Banks, Benefices in Plurality, Chancery Reform, County and Prerogative Courts, and Borough Gaols, are all of them subjects under various stages of discussion, most of them likely to add some leaves to the statute book, and not a few of them certain to contribute something to the advantage and well-being of the community. And for that important barometer of national health, the great manufacturing and trading interest, though there has been a cry of alarm about deficiencies of growth which has raised the price of cotton, in other respects prices have remained steady, and the markets active and prosperous. After all, perhaps, we are not so near our decline as M. Ledru supposes.

It must be confessed that he receives sanction, however, from influential people among ourselves. The Protectionists, for example, have been very doleful as well as active during the month, in parliament and elsewhere. The Duke of Richmond opened the campaign by informing the House of Lords that the farmers were fast becoming ripe for revolution; and, after a few days, the landlords and farmers had a meeting at the Crown and Anchor, at which his Grace presided, to exhibit and report revolutionary progress. Here a Mr. Booker showed the destitution to which loss of protection had reduced him, by declaring his readiness to subscribe a thousand pounds to protect his friends at the hustings; a Mr. Chowler proclaimed that the farmers had not only nine-tenths of the horses of the kingdom, but men to ride upon them, and men that were not going to ride against the labourers whatever might come to pass after next harvest; a Mr. Allnutt warned the fundholder, as a drone, that the farmer, as a working bee, was quite losing his distaste to the notion of public robbery; a Mr. Caldecott recommended a league to refuse tithes and taxes; a Mr. Ball kept it up by declaring himself prepared to risk all, leave all, dare all, and take the most terrible steps that injury could suggest; a Mr. Higgins put this mystery into English by protesting himself ready to fight; and Sir Robert Peel was denounced, on the platform, as the arch-enemy of the human species. Nevertheless, nothing more immediately terrible ensued than a deputation to Lord John Russell, which, after getting somewhat cold comfort in Downing Street (for Lord John reminded them that they had brought their own discomforts on themselves by refusing his fixed duty in 1840), proceeded for a little encouragement to St. James's Square, and were advised by Lord Stanley not by any means to expect immediate relief from either house of legislature, but to be patient, to agitate for themselves, and to live in hope of the good time coming, when, like Wellington at Waterloo, *Up Guards and at Them* might be the signal for victory. Already had this very war-cry issued, however, from a gallant yeomanry captain in the Lower House, and it was now too late to intercept Mr. Grantley Berkeley's motion for the re-imposition of duties on corn. It came on as advertised, and with a result not at all flattering to the Higgins and Chowler farmers. The division exhibited a great

increase in the strength of the free-trade party, and the debate a great decrease even in the confidence of their opponents. Mr. Disraeli not only disapproved of the motion, for which nevertheless he thought himself bound to vote, but openly repudiated monopoly in favour of reciprocity, declared that his quarrel was not with low prices at home but with high duties abroad, and denounced protection for the benefit of a class as little better than plunder. If the "horses and men" should ever turn out, therefore, as Mr. Chowler promised at the Crown and Anchor, it seems probable that the leadership on the occasion, with whatever "punches on the head" may be contingent, will fall to Mr. Grantley Berkeley rather than to Mr. Benjamin Disraeli.

Objecting thus strongly to the benefit of a class as the basis of legislation, Mr. Disraeli had not scrupled, however, a few evenings before, on the occasion of Mr. Henley's proposition for a reduction of official salaries and wages, to argue in effect that because wheat had sunk to below forty shillings a quarter, the wages of public servants should be reduced in the same proportion. But the result of the debate very clearly showed that erroneous notions prevail generally as to the remuneration given in the public offices; and that, whatever may be the conclusions arrived at by the committee now sitting to hear evidence as to the higher official, judicial, and diplomatic salaries, the salaries of the working classes of public servants are more decidedly under than above the mark of the duties, and of the probity and ability evinced in their discharge. On this ground Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Roebuck met in perfect agreement, and some of the stoutest financial reformers voted against the proposition; though on the other hand, Mr. George Hudson, who had formerly tried the experiment of an indiscriminate reduction of wages (to "make things pleasant") on his various lines of railways, gave the benefit of his experience and support to Mr. Henley. But quite apart from this question of "wages" (which has really a very confined range), is that of the general cost of what are called the Civil Services, on the actual condition of which the appearance of the annual estimates throws timely and curious light. Here we at once perceive that steady and progressive reductions are undeniably at work in the salaries and expenses of public departments; but less cause for congratulation presents itself in the items of increase in other directions. The expenditure upon crime is fifty-five thousand pounds more than it was two years ago; and the money required for public buildings exceeds what was asked for, last year, by nearly ninety thousand. In other words, while our prison and convict administration is in the least possible satisfactory state, the country is paying two thousand pounds a day for it; and we are asked to contribute forty-five thousand pounds more than was voted last year to the building of the Palace of Westminster, within the same month in which we hear of the House of Commons having been actually built so small that it will not accommodate its members! Crime, for the most part the result of ignorance, costs us seven hundred and fifty thousand pounds a year; and for the removal of ignorance we are asked to give something less than a hundred and fifty thousand. The cost of the single convict establishment at Van Dieman's Land is larger than the whole national expenditure for the purposes of public education; and the entire sum that we pay, not alone for the extension of education, but also for the encouragement of science and art (government being here kept fully in countenance by ultra-liberal House of Commons majorities who think it decent to refuse a thousand pounds for three pictures by Mr. Edwin Landseer), is decidedly less than the solitary charge for keeping up that anti-slave trade squadron on the Coast of Africa, of which the principal effect is to exaggerate the horrors of slave traffic. The last item claiming notice is an increase of nearly twenty thousand pounds upon last year's estimate of Colonial and other Foreign services; and this may recal us to the legislative labours of the month, and the third reading of the Australian bill.

Mr. Gladstone and Sir William Molesworth have been the principal opponents of this measure, and they continued their hostility to the last. Yet it is to be hoped that it may receive no material damage in the Upper House, for, though it has unquestionable defects, it is a vast improvement upon the existing system, and offers stronger inducements than have yet existed to that higher kind of emigration which has long been desirable, and is now become essential. It has provoked opposition chiefly because it does not abolish the imperial veto, and because it does not give double legislatures to each of the colonies; but it secures absolute self-government to the colonists in all local affairs, and it leaves the mother country only so much general power as may be justly claimed in right of her connection and concessions, and exercised with advantage to the colonies themselves. Mr. Gladstone made an attempt to graft upon the bill a sort of legislative Convocation for the church independent of the local legislature; a convocation which would have been constituted of the laity as well as clergy, and so far inviting support from the more liberal of the church parties; but containing provisions too plainly indicating the intention of the mover not to render its defeat desirable. One of the clauses practically nullified the lay element in the proposed ecclesiastical legislature, by making the assent of the Australian bishops essential to the efficacy of the acts of convocation; and judging from the results of episcopal administration in our old world, it would have been hard to deliver over our new to the like tender mercies. In the month of which we present this record, the existence of an ecclesiastical sinecure of fifteen thousand a year, and its appropriation by the English primate for the benefit of his son, have startled economical as well as religious people not a little. Nor has the shock been greatly abated by the primate's explanation that he had presented his son with express submission to the power existing under a recent act, of lowering the salary and increasing the duty, if the legislature should be so inclined; or by the Bishop of London's palliation of the enormity by the greater enormity of an episcopal predecessor, who had appointed a son of six months old to a similar office, and so secured him its enjoyment for full seventy years! It is the disclosure of facts of this nature which has given personal bitterness to the discussions on the still pending Ecclesiastical Commission bill; and which indisposes the most easy and tolerant of church-goers to listen, with any sort of patience, to such further discoveries as that a million and a half of personal property has been left by the twenty-six bishops deceased during the last twenty years. It is a little comfort, in connection with so painful a subject, to have to record the final success in the House of Commons of the Manchester Rectory Division bill. The object of this most just and necessary measure is to apportion some forty thousand a-year of church property existing in Manchester, to the spiritual wants of four hundred thousand Christian souls also existing there; instead of devoting it to the comfortable maintenance of half-a-dozen church sinecurists, who openly profess themselves neither obliged nor disposed to discharge any clerical functions. Yet a minority of sixty members were found to oppose the third reading, headed by the members for both Universities! To the accomplishment of this act of justice we have to set off an unsuccessful attempt by Mr. Hume to abolish pluralities; but the attempt at least facilitated a less energetic move in the

same direction, and a clause was carried to enforce residence in all but the poorest livings, which will strip plurality of not a few of its charms.

Ireland has occupied a good deal of legislative attention during the month; and in connection with the Irish Chancery Reform bill (which has now passed the Lower House), we may glance at the extraordinary revolution which the sales under the Encumbered Estates Act are silently effecting over the whole face of that country. The predictions which attended the passing of this act, as to its clearing Land of litigation, and turning into a blessing what for two centuries had been associated with little save suffering and crime, are in a steady course of gradual fulfilment. The prices obtained are reasonably good (eighteen and nineteen years purchase); the native bidders are more numerous than was expected; and additional inducements now held out by Sir John Romilly's Security for Advances bill, a most statesmanlike measure, will have the effect of attracting to Ireland still more of unemployed English capital than has yet had courage to venture there. The object of this bill is to facilitate the borrowing of money on the absolute security of the land bought by the borrower under the Encumbered Estates Act, to the extent of half the amount of the purchase money; thus guaranteeing the safety of such investments; and it is in contemplation, we believe, even to empower the Bank of England to lend money on mortgages thus secured. Another question very essential to any hope of continued peace in Ireland, has passed the lower house after a striking debate; and the new Irish Reform bill is in the House of Lords. Sir James Graham's emphatic warning against resting national institutions on a too narrow electoral basis, drawn from the recent example of Louis Philippe, produced a strong sensation; and it is no insignificant tribute to the spirit of the time that the same sagacious statesman should have expressed his readiness to see the principle of household suffrage generally adopted in parliamentary representation. Of the intolerable grievance to be remedied in Ireland no doubt whatever exists. Though the majority for the bill was only sixty-eight, in a house of four hundred and forty members, it was not denied in the debate that the Irish constituencies have been gradually dwindling away ever since the Act of '32; that the electors, for a population of eight millions, do not now amount to fifty thousand; and that whereas twenty-nine per cent. is the electoral average throughout Great Britain, two per cent. is the average in Ireland. The struggle in the Lords will mainly be to raise the franchise, and this will be led by Irish proprietors; nor will even the bill to abolish the universally admitted nuisance of the Irish vice-royalty, and to create an additional secretary for the Home Department, lately introduced by Lord John to the House of Commons, be permitted to pass without a considerable Irish opposition. Meanwhile Lord Ellenborough has revived, with perhaps more spirit than wisdom, the question of payment for the priesthood (who are reported to be starving amid those villages of the south and west which emigration and mortality have depopulated); and petitions have been presented both to Lords and Commons, during the month, as well for the appropriation of Protestant church revenues to the better accommodation of Catholic church parishes, as for the surrender of ill-filled Protestant churches to the use of over-filled Catholic chapels. But these modest suggestions have not yet begun to attract attention.

Other questions not directly political, but involving interests of the highest importance, have been brought in various ways into discussion. The Metropolitan Interments bill has made no further progress in the House of Commons, but it is to be hoped that the courage and resolve of its friends will not fall short of the desperate and eager activity of its opponents. The latter have done what they could to strengthen their case, by a foul riot at a meeting supposed to be unfavourable to them; when an organised body of "performers" in the solemn and gentle offices of the dead, went through a more congenial performance of ruffianism to the living, overpowering speakers on the platform, insulting and terrifying ladies who were present, and finally clearing the room. Lord Ashley has withdrawn his opposition to the government proposal for giving practical efficacy to the Ten Hours Act; and though Mr. Richard Oastler, but the morning before he did this, had been indulging a dream at Broadstairs of "Her Most Gracious Majesty sending for Lord Ashley to form a Ministry," all the more rational of the Ten Hours champions have since signified acquiescence in the compromise. When the bill shall have passed, factories will be worked from six to six on five days in the week, and between six and two on Saturdays, with perfect leisure after two on the latter day, and with an hour and a half for meals and leisure on each of the former. A measure not less deeply interesting to masses of the most industrious part of the population, is the scheme for securing more direct responsibility in the management of Savings Banks, and for extending the power of government to grant annuities and life assurances of small amounts through the medium of those institutions (the latter, as it seems to us, a most important step in legislation for the interests of working men), which is now before the House of Commons for discussion. Another measure, the discussion of which is likely to continue keen in proportion to the number and magnitude of the interests involved in it, is the County Courts Extension bill; members complaining that their very coats are torn off their backs in passing through the lobbies by parties eager to compel their advocacy of it, organised committees of merchants and traders assisting and memorialising as fiercely against it, and the Attorney-general and the Home Secretary by adroit adoption of it having already very nearly amended it "off the face of the earth." The month has brought announcement also of other law reforms. A Commission has been issued, preparatory to a reform of the system of special pleading, which will no doubt be of special benefit, though it has too much the appearance of a move in aid of the Higher against the County Courts; Lord Campbell has introduced a bill to simplify criminal pleadings, and prevent the lamentable and too notorious defects of justice on small technical points; the same active dignitary has declared, in judgment on a case in the Queen's Bench which has hardly attracted the notice due to its importance, that the intervention of an attorney is not essential in the employment of a barrister, but that the latter may receive his instructions directly from the party to the suit, though such a course is the reverse of commendable; a spirited attempt is in progress, by Mr. Keogh, to reform the Ecclesiastical Courts in Ireland; and the Lord High Chancellor Cottenham has at length roused himself to a part of the work so long expected from him, and has issued a series of Orders which will have the effect of dispensing, in a large class of suits, with the formality of bill and answer, and of providing for the reference to the master on a mere observance of certain very simple forms. It is a clear and decisive step in advance, and worthy to have been the last official act of one of the greatest lawyers that ever adorned the woolsack; but it is to be hoped the next step will go beyond the master's offices, and venture into the penetralia of the High Court itself.

A glance into lower law courts, before we close, may not inaptly conclude this month's review.

Remarkable social disclosures are made there, and social problems receive often strange solutions. Before Vice-Chancellor Knight Bruce, for example, there has been the case of a most foolish and frantic member of a ridiculous and not very decent sect, who has been refused the control and custody of his child, not for one of the many reasons that might fairly have been admitted to operate in support of such refusal, but because the Vice-Chancellor apprehends "that in England a man who holds the opinion that prayer, in the sense of entreaty and supplication to the Almighty, is superfluous, who considers moreover that there is not any day in the week which ought to be observed as a sabbath, or in any manner distinct from other days, must be deemed to entertain opinions noxious to society, adverse to civilisation, opposed to the usages of Christendom, contrary (in the case of prayer at least) to the express commands of the New Testament, and disqualifying the man who avows and practises them for the education and guardianship of an English child." These words are quoted literally; and they revive the worst and most dangerous doctrine of the days of Eldon; though, in the general disgust and contempt inspired by the *Agapemone* doctrine, the judgment against one of its professors will probably escape the condemnation due to it. Passing from Chancery to the Court of Queen's Bench, we find a criminal information very properly refused by Lord Campbell in a case of dispute between the Electric Telegraph Company and a very active news-agency house in Liverpool, which had opposed with considerable spirit the company's pretension to exclusive "trading in news;" but the peremptory refusal of even a rule nisi in a case affecting the character of a foreign exile, and the as peremptory disposition to make one absolute in a simple case of error very amply atoned for (we allude to the application against Mr. Murray, and to that in behalf of Miss Sellon), do not strike us in so impartial or just a light. Turning away into the Court of Exchequer, we are warned by the result of an action involving the responsibility of a railway company for the acts of its officers, that the duties of these officers are now held by law to be determined at the pleasure of their employers; and that if any one of them transacts a duty to which he has not been privately named by such employers, and in the course of it falsely accuses, maltreats, and wrongly imprisons a traveller on the railway, the unfortunate traveller has no remedy against the company, though the wrong could only have been done under cover of its authority, and by the express privileges with which parliament has invested its servants. Descending a little lower, into the Insolvent Debtors' Courts, we perceive, in such contrasted cases as Mr. Pritchard's and Mr. Delafield's, how, in the present constitution of English Society, one man may build up out of nothing a ten-thousand-a-year business in six years, and another spend every shilling of a hundred thousand pounds' gain of business in six months. Descending somewhat lower still, and entering the Thames Police Court, we discover that no man of colour, be he Englishman, Frenchman, or of what country he may, is permitted to approach the shores of the slave-holding states of America, without at once surrendering his freedom, delivering himself up into custody, and consenting to live in gaol until those who brought him are not only ready to take him away, but prepared to pay for his imprisonment, or to be mulcted in their property for it! The reader can hardly expect us to tell him anything more remarkable than this; or than Lord Palmerston's avowal in the House of Commons, not only that there is no help or remedy for it, but that the unhappy human beings thus outcast from all social protection have at least the benefit of fair notice that such really will be their fate! Here, therefore, we conclude: leaving him to meditate on the nature and claims of freedom, political and social, monarchical and republican.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

THERE was no business of importance transacted in the HOUSE OF LORDS till the 2nd of May, when an Address of Congratulation to Her Majesty on the *Birth of another Prince*, was moved by the Marquis of LANSDOWNE and unanimously voted.

The Duke of RICHMOND presented above a hundred petitions complaining of *Agricultural Distress;* as a proof of its existence he called attention to the appearance of sixty advertisements in a Northumberland Newspaper of sales of farm-stock; and he complained of the undue pressure of the Income Tax on the farmers. Earl GREY observed that numerous sales of farm-stock always take place at this season; and that he himself had objected to the Income Tax as unjust to the farmers, but had been overruled by the leaders of the agricultural party.

On Monday the 6th, the Archbishop of CANTERBURY explained a transaction respecting the *Registrarship of the Prerogative Court*, which had been referred to in the House of Commons on the 30th of April, (as will be found below). It had been imputed to him that he had nominated his son to the reversion of a valuable sinecure. "My Lords," he said, "the case is so as regards the reversionary office; the case is not so as regards either the value or the sinecure. In the session of 1847, an act was passed which placed the Prerogative Court of Chancery under the control of Parliament in respect to all future nominations; and the office of Registrar, if ever held by my son, which is very uncertain, not to say improbable, will be performed in person, and its salary regulated according to the duties and responsibilities of the station. The value, according to the doctrine of chances, would be scarcely equal to the stamp on which the nomination is recorded. It was not until the close of the autumn of 1847, a few months before the death of my venerable predecessor, that the act passed which took away the sinecure. It took away the sinecure, and it limited the value; but the office must remain, and must be filled: wherever there is a diocese there must be a registry, and where there is a registry there must be a registrar. And I trust that in nominating, prospectively, that registrar, I shall, in the judgment of your Lordships, have exercised a privilege to which I was both legally and morally entitled, and have done nothing which, when explained, can subject me to the charge of nepotism; an imputation which I hope neither has been nor ever will be the characteristic of my official career." This explanation was received with general cheering: and the Bishop of LONDON mentioned, as a proof of the Most Rev. Prelate's disinterestedness, a case in which, when Bishop of Chester, he had at his disposal a valuable office which he might have given to his son, but did not.

On Friday the 10th, Ministers were worsted on a Colonial question. The Duke of ARGYLL revived the claim of Mr. Ryland, (formerly clerk of the Executive Council in Canada) for compensation for the loss of his appointment through the abolition of the office, which he had not obtained, though it had been officially promised. The DUKE moved resolutions declaratory of Mr. Ryland's right to compensation.—Earl GREY moved the previous question, on the ground that the claim was a matter for the Colonial Government to settle; but the original motion was carried by 22 to 19.

On Monday the 13th, the presentation by Lord BROUGHAM of a petition in favour of *University Reform*, gave occasion for some remarks on the subject by him, and the Duke of WELLINGTON. Lord BROUGHAM said, he believed that both the Duke of WELLINGTON and Lord LYNDHURST concurred in deprecating any rash interference with the universities, in which great im-

provements had recently taken place. He hoped that no Germanic system, or Germanic crotchets would be introduced into our ancient, and hitherto, flourishing universities.—The Duke of WELLINGTON said, that as far as he could understand, there was no desire to introduce any Germanic system into the University of Oxford. But while that University was anxious to introduce every requisite improvement, that which it could not do, was to repeal the statutes by which it was governed. He hoped that no proceedings would be taken which would have the effect of forcing some of the most respectable, faithful, and loyal of her Majesty's servants to choose between their duty of obedience to her Majesty's commands and their duty with respect to the execution of the law.

Lord STANLEY announced his intention of calling the attention of the House to the *Affairs of Greece*, and requested to know when official accounts of the late transactions would be laid before the House?—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE promised that the requested information should be speedily furnished. The French negotiator, he said, had broken off the negotiations on a single point: it was owing to an "accident of the winds," which occasioned a delay of three or four days, that the accommodation was not brought about by the instrumentality of the French Government, which would have been more satisfactory. The terms only differed from the French terms in one particular, and in that particular they were more favourable to Greece; "so that, in the exercise for its free discretion, Greece has obtained terms, in a pecuniary sense, much better than those the French Minister here thought her entitled to."—Lord STANLEY thought that the Marquis of LANSDOWNE had a strange idea of "free discretion," when the Greek Government had only submitted under a threat of bombardment by the fleet of the most powerful maritime state in the world.—Lord LANSDOWNE, in making an announcement on another subject soon afterwards, added: "I am reminded by my noble friend near me to inform your Lordships, that the threat of bombarding the Piræus, just adverted to by the noble Lord, is entirely an assumption of his own."

On Thursday the 16th, Lord BROUGHAM asked an explanation of a fact, which had just come to his knowledge—the *Departure of the French Ambassador*, by command of his government, on her Majesty's birth-day.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE said, that the circumstance was purely accidental, and in no way connected with any design to manifest disrespect either to her Majesty or this country.—Lord BROUGHAM: "I can hardly ascribe the absence of the Russian Ambassador to accident also; I wish I could."

On Friday, Lord BROUGHAM returned to the subject, with considerable vehemence, and required explanations respecting the "inauspicious fact" of the *French Ambassador's Recal*.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE said, that when the French Ambassador left this country he presented no letters of recal, and up to that moment no such notice of recal had been left with her Majesty's government. The Ambassador had left London, furnished, for the purpose of explanation, with documents that could not be known to the French Government. The noble Marquis expressed his earnest hope that the result would be such as to prevent any sort of interruption to the friendly intercourse of the two countries.—Lord BROUGHAM insisted that General La Hitte (the French Foreign Minister) directed M. Drouyn de Lhuys to "read" his despatch to Lord Palmerston.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE replied that no letters of recal had been "presented."

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on Thursday the 25th April, the *Australian Colonies Bill* was proceeded with in Committee, and its remaining clauses were passed with little discussion.—Mr. Vernon SMITH objected to the clause establishing a Federative Assembly, as being useless and uncalled for by the opinion of the colonies; and Mr. ROEBUCK (Mr. DISRAELI concurring) objected to this measure as being contrary to the principal of federation—the equality of the constituent parts.—Lord John RUSSELL defended the proposition as being practically useful.—Sir W. MOLESWORTH supported Mr. Roebuck's objection: and on a division the clause was carried by 64 to 10. The remainder of the clauses were passed and the bill reported.

The debate was resumed on the second reading of the *Securities for Advances* (Ireland) *Bill*. Lord NAAS objected to it as an interference with the present Encumbered Estates Act, and as being injurious to the Irish proprietors.—Mr. BAILLIE contended that the measure would depreciate the currency, by forcing ten millions worth of mortgage paper, of the nature of Exchequer bills, into the market.—The SOLICITOR GENERAL replied to these objections; and after observations in support of the bill from Mr. Fagan, Mr. Sadler, Mr. H. Herbert, and Mr. Stuart Wortley, its second reading was carried by 186 to 41.

On Friday the 26th, the motion for going into Committee on the *Distressed Unions Advances* (Ireland) *Bill* was opposed by Colonel Sibthorp, who moved that the House should go into Committee that day six months; but his amendment, after a little discussion, was lost by 132 to 12. The bill then went through the Committee. The further business of the House that evening was obstructed by a long discussion originated by Mr. DISRAELI, who, on the motion for going into a committee of supply, made an attack on the financial arrangements of the year.—Lord John RUSSELL defended himself and his colleagues, and exposed the inconsistencies of Mr. Disraeli's own conduct. When this ended, the House went into committee; but it was now midnight, and too late to proceed to business.

The subject of the *New Houses of Parliament* was brought forward on Monday, the 29th ult., by Mr. OSBORNE.—Mr. GREEN as one of the commissioners, said that the commissioners had been unable to reconcile the differences between the architect and the ventilator, and that in the meantime they were endeavouring to carry on the work the best way they could.—Mr. OSBORNE gave notice of a motion with the view of getting rid of both Mr. Barry and Dr. Reid; an intimation that was received with cheers and laughter.

Mr. COCKBURN called attention to the case, at the Thames Police Court, of the black steward of a British vessel who had been taken out of the ship at Charleston and imprisoned for two months, simply because he was *a Man of Colour*.—Lord PALMERSTON said that the case was not new; that such a law as that mentioned existed in the State of Carolina; and that our government had remonstrated against it as a violation of the principles of international law, as well as of the treaty of 1815: but the reply had been that the Federal government was unable to revoke the law, and that, if England insisted, the American government would be compelled to terminate the treaty of 1815. The English government, therefore, had not thought it expedient to press the matter further; but it should be remembered that the law is known, and that those who go there expose themselves to it voluntarily.

A Bill to amend the law as to *Savings Banks* was brought in by the Chancellor of the EXCHEQUER. He gave a sketch of the history of these establishments, which now hold the deposits of the poor to the amount of twenty-eight millions, and pointed out the necessity of remedying the evils caused by growing laxity of management. One of the chief evils (he said) is that exemption from any liability which was extended to trustees in 1844: it is proposed to restore this liability for wilful or neglectful losses. Neither the Government nor the trustees are now liable for loss by the treasurers of the savings-banks; the Government cannot be answerable for the officers it does not appoint, and the trustees are unanswerable for anybody or anything. It is proposed to place these officers in the appointment of Government, and to make Government responsible for their acts. Fraud is frequently occasioned by the treasurer or actuary receiving monies at his own house. It is intended that the treasurer alone shall receive money, and he shall attend at certain stated times for that purpose. The Government will generally appoint a local banker to fill the office; and the duties shall no longer be wholly unremunerated. It shall be a misdemeanour for any other person than the treasurer to receive money as a savings-bank deposit. Daily accounts shall be rendered to the Commissioners of the National Debt;

and those Commissioners shall appoint auditors, who shall exercise a constant auditing of the accounts, subject to supervision by special inspectors despatched at discretion. It was further proposed (he added) to reduce the rate of interest allowed to depositors from 3*l.* to 2*l.* 15*s.*, and to limit deposits to the amount of 100*l.*; above that amount, Government would either hold the money without interest, or, at the depositor's option, invest in the funds free of charge. The power of buying should also be enlarged.—Some remarks were made, generally favourable to the measure, with criticisms on its details. Mr. HUME, in particular, observed that it provided only for the future, and that nothing was done for the relief of those who had already lost the money they had invested in savings-banks, trusting to the security of the Government. The bill was then read a first time.

In moving the second reading of the *Ecclesiastical Commissions Bill*, Sir George GREY entered into some explanations. He said that the principal feature of the measure was the separation of the ecclesiastical and lay departments by the appointment of a tribunal to be designated "The Church Estates Committee," which was to be invested with the management of the property of the Church, and to report to the commission thereupon. This estates committee was to consist of three persons, two to be appointed by the Crown, and the third by the Archbishop of Canterbury, one of the former and the latter to be paid commissioners. Two others might be added, one of whom must be a layman. The decision of the committee would be practically conclusive from the weight which would attach to it. There was an important clause in the Bill by which fixed, instead of fluctuating incomes, would be given to the Archbishops and Bishops, and a clause was also to be introduced to prevent Deans from holding benefices beyond a certain distance from their Cathedrals. — Mr. HORSMAN strenuously objected to the Bill; showing how far it fell short of the recommendations of the committee, and how unfit it was to effect any practical good. The whole Episcopal body were to remain members of the board, at once perpetuating its unwieldiness and the undue weight of episcopal influence. "Why," said Mr. HORSMAN, "are bishops necessary in the Commission at all? The bishops are not the Church; it is the laity who compose its numbers, life, and strength, and who may fitly guard its property. Looking to such gentlemen as Sir James Graham and Mr. Goulburn, surely that property would be as safe in the hands of a devout layman as a devout ecclesiastic. The Church has been plundered often; by the monarchs first, then by the nobles, in the last century by the bishops, in the present day by the ecclesiastical commissioners. The bishops are not exempt from human infirmities, and think they are taking care of all when sometimes taking care of themselves alone. In earlier days, the bishop's residence was in the cathedral city; he was at the centre of a religious community, ever at home, ever in the public gaze, ever accessible to his clergy and people; now he is metamorphosed into a rural dignitary, secluded in an aristocratic mansion, which the clergy penetrate with difficulty, the people not at all. In this age of active speculation and cultivated intellect—in this age so unsusceptible of belief—who should be the guides in the arduous and critical warfare? Surely men of a higher spiritual order than those who now, styled "Fathers in God," are yet wholly engrossed with worldly affairs, vigilant only of the Church's monies, tenacious only of her dignities and ranks—more likely to smite and sink her than to save her in the struggle. Mr. Goulburn had once complained of Mr. Horsman's low idea of the Episcopal office; Mr. Horsman had yet to learn that political functions have aught to do with spiritual office, or, indeed, are aught but tumours and excrescences upon that office. That office he deemed divine in its origin, spiritual in its essence—too high to be exalted by worldly pomp, too holy to be profaned by worldly occupation; and if so large an amount of worldly duties be involved in its functions, it is impossible to advance anything more fatal to the establishment of which it is a part.—Mr. GOULBURN vindicated the bench of bishops with great warmth, and made a personal attack on Mr. Horsman, who, he said, had "assaulted and vilified them with laboriously prepared eloquence." He described Mr. Horsman as a disappointed man, who had been a lord of the treasury, and was desirous of a higher office; and he entered into calculations, to show that Mr. Horsman, on a former occasion, had made unfair statements as to the incomes of the bishops.—Lord John RUSSELL observed that no objections had been made to the second reading of the bill; the observations which had been made being merely for the consideration of the committee. He would, therefore, only say, that so far as he had known the right rev. bench of prelates, they were pious, learned, courteous, and hospitable.—Mr. OSBORNE characterised the bill as being, in the present state of the Church, a mere compromise—a sort of "pull-bishop pull-curate" affair. He repelled Mr. Goulburn's attack on Mr. Horsman. He was surprised that a minister of Mr. Goulburn's standing and experience could condescend to throw out so low a taunt as to say that his honourable friend was a disappointed man. Such an expression did not come with grace from one who had been tied for years like a tin kettle to the tail of the right honourable baronet the member for Tamworth—so long, that whenever the right honourable baronet ran from one side of the house to the other, be it on this question or on that, the tinkle of the tin kettle was ever heard, whether it was against Catholic emancipation one day or in favour of Catholic emancipation on another, or whether against the principles of free-trade at one time, or for the principles of free-trade on the next occasion. "After such a career," continued Mr. Osborne, when the laughter and confusion caused by his remarks had subsided, "the honourable gentleman turns round upon my honourable friend, who has been engaged in a most meritorious manner; and because he has succeeded in making a stand in the country—such a stand as the right hon. gentleman himself has never made, and never will make—he taunts him with having brought this question forward because he is a disappointed man. I cannot sit here and hear a taunt, so low, so unworthy a representative of the University of Cambridge, without at once entering my protest against it.—Sir R. INGLIS rose with great heat to answer Mr. Osborne, who had made an attack upon the member for the university of Cambridge,—his equal in everything, his superior in station, in temper, in talent, and in eloquence. Sir Robert's warmth produced a good many interruptions. On the subject of the bill he objected to the hierarchy of England being treated as mere stipendiary servants—the question was not of salaries, but of the inalienable property of the church. He trusted that the feeling with which he consented to the second reading of the bill would prevent him from being bound to the measure as it stood, or to the alterations which might be made in it.—Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT and Mr. PAGE WOOD expressed regret at the tone which the debate had taken; the latter condemning Mr. Goulburn for introducing idle gossip, to which he should not have condescended to give weight.—Mr. HORSMAN called on Mr. Goulburn to specify for what office he had ever known him a candidate.—Lord John RUSSELL interfered, with a tribute to the political independence of Mr. Horsman, and the unimpeached integrity and public character of Mr. Goulburn.—Mr. GOULBURN admitted that he had spoken under feelings of vexation, and retracted his allusion to what he admitted might have been a very foolish rumour.—Lord John RUSSELL promised to fix an early day for the discussion in committee, and the bill was read a second time.

On Tuesday the 30th, Sir B. HALL brought forward the subject of a *Sinecure Office in the Archdiocese of Canterbury*. He said that the emoluments of the office of Registrar of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury have been from 9000*l.* to 12,000*l.* a year; the office itself being a sinecure. The usage has been, that the Archbishop for the time being should nominate the incumbent of the office and two successors. Archbishop Moore appointed his two sons, and they in succession held the office. Dr. Manners Sutton appointed his grandson, the present Lord Canterbury, to the reversion of the office —that grandson being then ten or twelve years old. The late Dr. Howley made a communication to the Government, that, in the conscientious fulfilment of his

duty, he could not fill up the reversion of this sinecure when it became vacant in 1845; and it remained vacant at his death—not the only similar memorial of his pious self-denial. When Dr. Sumner, the present Archbishop, succeeded, he found the reversion of the office vacant, and immediately filled it up, by appointing his son, a young gentleman studying in the Temple. By the 10th and 11th Vict. c. 98, sec. 9, every such person appointed after the passing of the act is to hold office subject to the regulations made by Parliament; and Sir B. Hall desired to know what was the intention of Government with regard to the reversion of this Office.—Lord John RUSSELL assented to the correctness of the above statement. The office in question, he added, was under inquiry, and it appeared to be one that should be either abolished or greatly altered; in which case there could be no claim for compensation.

Mr. HENLEY moved for an address to Her Majesty, praying for a *Revision of the Salaries and Wages* paid in every department of the public service. He referred to the examination directed two years ago by Government, of various portions of the public expenditure, but remarked that official salaries were not included in the investigation, and that there had been no real inquiry into this question since 1821, when important reductions in salaries had been made. There was about four millions of payments every year which did not come under the revision of Parliament. He went through the details of the payments made to Cabinet Ministers, to "non-fighting" members of the military and naval services, to the diplomatic body, and to legal officers of all grades; and he contended that the principle upon which the payments to this mass of officials ought to be regulated should be the price of corn for the time being. But he also thought that great reforms might be made in the constitution of many of the departments, especially in the diplomatic service, in which he considered that both the number and the salaries of the *attachés* might be reduced. Recent reductions in the army and navy departments had affected the lower class of salaries only, and ought to be materially extended; and a large expenditure was kept up in order to preserve the aristocratic character of certain branches of the public service. He was of opinion that Lord John Russell's committee was intended chiefly to defeat the present motion; that the reductions, of which so much parade had recently been made, were in reality insignificant; and he sought to show that, though a number of items had been done away with, no corresponding reduction had followed in the cost of the departments wherein such reduction had taken place. He next went into statistics of pauperism, crime, and labour, to show the distressed condition of the nation; and asserting that the country demanded "more work for less money," he asked the House to compel an inquiry which should lead up to real economical reform.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER entered into a variety of statistical details in opposition to the statements and conclusions of Mr. Henley. He quoted from the Marylebone Workhouse accounts, to show that a pauper costs more in 1849 than in 1843, in the proportion of 5*s*. 0¾*d*. to 4*s*. 4¾*d*. He showed that considerable reductions have been made in late years on the numbers of departmental *employés*, and in the aggregate of their cost; in the Excise alone, since 1833, there have been reductions of 2,054 persons, receiving nearly half a million in salaries; in the Pay Office, consolidations which save 16,000*l*. a year. Affirming that the cost of collecting revenue has no fixed relation to its productiveness, he quoted figures to show that the cost of collection is lower for 1850 than in 1848, in all the departments. Lastly, he referred to the salaries of the servants in the great establishments organised by private enterprise—the Bank, the East India Company, &c.—the scale of which is equal to that of the Government establishments. He concluded by saying that there were not above 50,000 persons engaged in the civil service of the country; that there was no nation served by so few people, proportionately to the work they had to do, and served so well; and that the way to ensure heart-service, and not lip-service, was, in every department, to pay poor servants well, treat them with consideration and kindness, and not to discourage them by seeming willing to sacrifice their feelings and interests.—Colonel SIBTHORP supported the motion in his usual quaint way, and kept the house in a state of merriment during his speech. He said it was very evident there would be no reduction or revision of salaries. He never thought there would. He never expected anything from Lord John Russell's committee above stairs, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer was only showing them how he could get rid of the question. But after all, such motions as that of his honourable friend did some good. It did a great deal of good to stir those people up. There was the grossest job that ever existed, the Comptrollership of the Exchequer, a nice fat place for the noble lord who enjoyed the ease and the emoluments of the office, some 2,000*l*. a year. He had tried to get that gross job abolished. He had not succeeded, to be sure. He was refused, of course; but he would try again. Aye, he would. And he would tell the House that, even although he had not succeeded with his motion, he had done some good. The noble lord had never been in his office until that motion had been made. But he was often there now. The gallant Colonel then digressed to his favourite topic, the *evils* of free-trade. He saw the other day an engraved glass decanter, the price of which was sixpence. How could native industry prosper in the face of foreign competion like that? How could men not accustomed to live upon sour krout, but who were used to beef and ale, compete with such productions? And yet they were obliged to contribute to the keeping of the gentlemen upon the Treasury bench, who wallowed in champagne and turtle. It was only by a dissolution that they could expect to have a Government in a different position from that occupied by the present ministry.—Mr. NEWDEGATE argued that, as a rise in prices has ever been deemed a good reason for a rise in salaries, so the converse should hold good, of a reduction in salaries along with the present fall of prices.—Mr. HUME considered that the motion was not uncalled for as a supplement to the committee lately appointed, whose range of inquiry was much too limited. Without assigning any blame to the Government who had recently done much for economy, he wished that the proposition of Mr. Henley should be adopted. He suggested the appointment of a Board to examine into the qualifications of candidates for places.—Mr. ROEBUCK, approving of the proposed scrutiny, believed that its result would show that the working officials who do the business of the nation are wretchedly paid. He took the case of the Treasury, where thirty-seven persons are employed. Look at any man who has attained honours at either of the Universities and entered the Treasury; he enters there unused to business, as much a learner as in a pleader's chambers, and remains two years with 90*l*. a year. There are four classes; he remains in the first class till he is thirty-three years old, and then obtains 200*l*.: he then reaches the second class, in which he may rise to 500*l*. by the time he is fifty. And so he goes on to the fourth class, at the head of which he obtains 1,000*l*. a-year; but not before he is fifty-nine years old. Mr. Roebuck appealed to the House of Commons—looking to the habits of this country, and they must look to those habits—looking to all the exigencies a man must go through before he could fit himself for office—looking to the station he must hold in this great town, to meet others in the position of gentlemen, in the position of life in which he was, to be beyond the ordinary temptations of life—was it to be said that in the highest office of the working people of the state of this country a man must be sixty years old before he could attain to 1,000*l*. a-year, and that that should be considered overpaying in a hard-working service? Would any one say that a lawyer in business might be deemed overpaid if when he began life he hoped at sixty to attain 1,000*l*. a-year? He had heard it stated that the heads of his own profession were overpaid: he at once boldly said he did not think they were. If, then, the heads of that profession were not overpaid, and the heads of the Government were not overpaid, and the subordinates were not overpaid, where was the overpayment? It could only be in the number of persons employed; and he was sure the noble Lord would do well to allow the inquiry, to show that the numbers were not over what they ought to be; for if it be proved that they were more numerous

than they ought to be, the noble Lord would be the first to be benefited by the reduction. Why then should not an inquiry be made? Why should they have what he always considered a subterfuge—the previous question? It could not be said that the present was an inconvenient time, there could not be a fitter time than one of transition for such an inquiry.—Sir ROBERT PEEL agreed with much that had been said by Mr. Roebuck, but could not adopt his conclusion; as the proposed inquiry could lead to no practical result, the salaries of no class of the public servants being greater than what their services earned and the public interest required.—Mr. CORDEN opposed the motion; because if he accepted the reduction of price as a plea for a reduction of salaries in public offices, he would be party to a proposition for a general reduction of wages throughout the country; a measure uncalled for, impracticable, and therefore absurd. So far from a reduction of price leading to a reduction of wages, the tendency is the other way; a diminution of price leading to increased demand, increased employment, and increase of wages. He admitted that the time is come when we should endeavour to deal with the non-effective branch of the military service by preventing its extension. Considerable advantages have generally resulted from Committees: but he would vote against this motion because he objected to the reduction of the salaries of humble clerks and labourers in the public departments; because he could not be a party to casting a blemish on free trade by making it the pretence for inflicting a wound on any class of the community; because he was unwilling to make it appear that the country was less able now than before the establishment of free trade to pay its officers and servants; because he was not disposed to acknowledge, as a consequence of free trade, that the people are in the enjoyment of fewer comforts than before; and finally, because he could not admit that the people are not entitled to the full benefit of the advantages which free trade gives them.—Mr. DISRAELI said that there was a general cry over the country for reduction of burdens which were felt to be grievous and intolerable; and maintained that this arose from the distress produced by the operation of free trade. He defended the policy recently adopted by the Protectionist party; and in reference to the charge that it was inspired by a new-born economy, he boasted that to the Tory party the nation was indebted for all the great financial reforms which had been effected since the declaration of the independence of America up to the Reform Bill. Financial reform, he asserted, had that night received a fatal blow. The proposal of Mr. Henley was to deal with an amount of seven millions and a half, and might have effected a reduction of a million a-year. But the great financial reformers had decided that it was not to be. The present distress in the country was not the condemnation—that was coming—of the new commercial system, but one of its consequences. He did not intend to bring on a specific motion for a re-consideration of our financial system, because he did not think that Parliament was the place for settling the question. Experience could only be learned by affliction; and as soon as the people had, by bitter experience, arrived at a proper understanding of its position, the nation itself would take the settlement of the question into its own hands.—Lord John RUSSELL said that this motion was clearly one of censure on the Government, inasmuch as it asked Her Majesty to direct that to be done which Government was already doing. The labouring classes were in a better position than before a free-trade policy was adopted. The motion was part of an avowed system of tactics for bringing back the duties on food, and he believed that no such proposal would for a moment be listened to by the country. On the division the numbers were, for the previous question 269, against it, 173: majority against the motion, 96.

On Wednesday the 1st of May, the House, on the motion of Sir G. GREY, voted an address of congratulation to Her Majesty on the birth of a prince.—The House went into Committee on the *Benefices in Plurality Bill*.—Mr. HUME moved, as an amendment on the first clause, the omission of the qualifying words, so as totally to prohibit the holding of pluralities; which, after some discussion, was negatived by 166 to 53.—Mr. Sidney HERBERT then moved an amendment, extending the prohibition against plural holding not only to benefices situated beyond a certain proximity to one another, but also to those of which one at least should not fall beneath the annual value of 100*l*., which was passed by a majority of 166 to 16.—The clause as so amended was adopted, as were several succeeding, without opposition, the one extending the operation of the bill to Ireland being withdrawn by consent.

The debate on the bill for the *Abolition of Attorney's Certificate Tax* was resumed on Thursday the 2nd. Sir F. THESIGER supported the motion for leave to bring in the bill, entering into elaborate statistics in its favour, and contending that the tax originated in a spirit of hostility to lawyers.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed the bill on the ground that as many taxes had been already removed as the state of the revenue would admit of. Leave, however, was given to bring in the bill, by 155 to 136; a majority of 19 against the government.

The intentions of the Government with respect to the *Factory Question* were announced on Friday the 3rd, by Sir George GREY, in answer to a question by Lord Ashley. He proposed, he said, to introduce a measure in conformity with the spirit of the act of 1847, though not with its letter. At present, the *factory* may work between the hours of half-past five in the morning and half-past eight in the evening; the ten hours to be included within that time. He proposed to limit the working of the factory between six in the morning and six in the evening, and to deduct from that time an hour and a half for meals; making the time for all hands ten hours and a half daily. On Saturday, however, he would take the eight hours from six till two, omitting half an hour for breakfast, and making in the whole sixty hours in the week, in lieu of fifty-eight hours as at present. Lord John MANNERS and Mr. EDWARDS protested against this, or any compromise which would add two hours to the toil of the labourer.—Mr. HUME said he had always deprecated interference between master and workmen, and that he regretted to find the government so weak as to countenance so vicious a principle.—Several Irish measures—the *Distressed Unions Advances Bill*, the *Parliamentary Voters Bill*, and the *Court of Chancery Bill*, were considered and forwarded in committee, with little discussion. A small episodical skirmish occurred on the *Franchise Bill*. Lord CASTLEREAGH called on Mr. W. J. Fox to explain an expression he had used at the Reform conference—that their ultimate object was "a social revolution," which, he (Lord Castlereagh) presumed, meant a socialist revolution.—Mr. FOX said, that what he meant, was not a revolution which had anything to do with bloodshed, plunder, or the destruction of venerated and useful institutions, the redistribution of property, or any such absurdities: but a change which should put talent, integrity, and legitimate influence in the place of corruption and of intimidation in the representation of the people in that House. This explanation was received with loud cheers.

On Monday the 6th, on the Report of the *Australian Colonies Bill* being brought up, Sir W. MOLESWORTH moved its re-committal, in order to take the sense of the House on his scheme for depriving the Colonial Office of power to interfere with the local administration of the Australian colonies, and for giving those colonies the uncontrolled management of their own affairs. "I propose," he said, "virtually to transport the colonial office, with all its powers, to the colonies. For instance, my object would virtually be accomplished if the noble earl the secretary of state for the colonies were transported to New South Wales and made governor of that colony, or if the honourable gentleman the under-secretary of state for the colonies were made lieutenant-governor of Western Australia, and both of them were, as far as their respective colonies were concerned, to retain all the powers of the colonial office. Without doubt, we should deeply grieve to lose the valuable services of the noble earl and the honourable gentleman in Downing Street; but I am satisfied that they would render far greater services to the Colonial empire in the colonies to which I have referred." He concluded

by saying that there was a striking analogy between the government of the United States and that which ought to be the system of government in our colonial empire. "For," he said, "the United States form a system of states clustered round a central republic; our colonial empire ought to be a system of colonies clustered round the hereditary monarchy of England. The hereditary monarchy should possess the powers of government, with the exception of that of taxation, which the central republic possesses. If it possessed less, the empire would cease to be one body politic; if it continue to possess more, the colonies will be discontented at the want of self-government, and on the first occasion will imitate their brethren in America." The motion, having been supported by Mr. Adderley and Mr. Gladstone, and opposed by Mr. Labouchere and Sir George Grey, was negatived by 165 to 42.

Mr. GLADSTONE then brought forward his proposal of an *Ecclesiastical Constitution for the Australian Colonies*. He contended that the system of established religion does not prevail in Australia for any useful purpose. The church is simply, like the sects, a stipendiary church; although the power of appointment to benefices lies with the Governor. There are no ecclesiastical courts for the maintenance of discipline; all discipline must emanate from the Prerogative Courts of the Province of Canterbury, at the other side of the world. The Bishop is powerless, unless he act with arbitrary despotism, and without any forms of judicial procedure at all: and if he do this, the right of appeal to home is a right upon paper alone. Mr. Gladstone proposed, inasmuch as the Colonial Church is thus excluded from the rights and privileges of establishment to untie its hands from all disabilities, and let it fall back on its original freedom. With this object he moved that a clause be added to the bill enacting that the bishops, clergy, and laity, in communion with the church, in the several colonies, shall have power to meet from time to time and make regulations for the conduct of ecclesiastical affairs. — Mr. LABOUCHERE opposed the motion, observing that, whatever might be the mover's intentions, the effect of the clause would be the establishment of an ecclesiastical synod, which would have the power of making laws without the sanction either of the colonial legislature or the imperial parliament. After a debate in which the motion was supported by Mr. Hope, Mr. Page Wood, Mr. Rundall Palmer, and Mr. Walpole, and opposed by Mr. Anstey, Mr. Roebuck, Sir G. Grey, the Attorney-General, and Mr. Hume, it was negatived by 187 to 102.

On Tuesday the 7th, Mr. EWART moved the *Repeal of the Advertisement Duty;* and briefly supported his motion by the usual arguments—the obstructive operation of the tax to transactions of business, the affairs of life, and the diffusion of religion and knowledge—its injustice and inequality, and the paltry amount of its produce. It was seconded by Mr. Milner GIBSON, and opposed by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, chiefly on the ground that the finances could not bear any remission of taxation beyond those he had announced in his financial statement for the year. It was lost by 208 to 39.—The *Sanitary Condition of the Journeymen Bakers* was then brought before the House by Lord R. GROSVENOR, who moved for a select Committee to inquire whether any measures can be taken to improve it.—Lord Dudley STUART seconded the motion, observing that among the 16,000 persons interested in its fate, a great number are mere lads.—Sir GEORGE GREY said, that the state of the facts was well known and called for no further inquiry; that the evils and hardships of the journeymen bakers were not denied; but that the only legitimate redress was an arrangement between the employers and their workmen.—Mr. STAFFORD prophesied that this rejection of the respectful supplications of a numerous and industrious body—this sacrifice to the cold fictions of political economy—would tell at future elections. Such treatment of the people might be politically philosophical, but was socially unsafe. Mr. BRIGHT opposed the motion; quoted articles from the *Bakers' Gazette and General Traders' Advocate*, and asked the House to judge whether there was anything in the projects which Robert Owen or the French Socialist leaders had put forward, that more partook of Communism than those articles. He would be ashamed to be the mouthpiece of a brawny, stalwart race of men —of Scotchmen too—who notwithstanding they have sufficient intelligence to make their cause known to the public through the medium of a newspaper, come to the House to remedy their grievances.—Mr. George THOMPSON repudiated Mr. Bright's doctrine, and felt bound to separate from him altogether if he had no better arguments for his principles than these.—Mr. Sharman CRAWFORD, was also in favour of inquiry. The House negatived the motion, by 90 to 44.

Mr. ANSTEY'S *Irish Fisheries Bill*, the principal object of which was to place in the hands of a Board of Commissioners the regulation of all the Irish fisheries, was lost on Wednesday the 8th, on the question of the second reading, by a majority of 197 to 37. The Bill received only a qualified support, and Sir W. SOMERVILLE, believing legislation on the subject to be necessary, suggested the introduction of another bill, less objectionable in its details.—Mr. LACY, in moving the second reading of his *Extramural Interment Bill*, objected to the plan proposed by the Board of Health and embodied in the Ministerial Bill. His proposal was, that the Railway Companies should be empowered to buy waste lands on the margins of their railways, and establish cemeteries on them. Mr. LABOUCHERE opposed the bill on the single ground that it was contrary to all principle to allow Railway Companies to embark in traffic different from their legitimate business. The bill was thrown out by 123 to 4.

On Friday, the 10th, in the Committee on the *Manchester Rectory Division Bill*, Mr. GOULBURN moved that the Salaries of the Canons should be 750*l.* a-year, instead of 600*l.* The motion was opposed by Mr. Milner Gibson and Sir George Grey, the matter having been fully considered by the Select Committee; and negatived by 193 to 60. The remaining clauses were agreed to.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER stated the substance of his intended *Stamp Duties Bill*, and intimated that on Monday he should move for a Committee of the whole House on the subject.

The third reading of the *Parliamentary Voters* (Irish) *Bill* was opposed by Lord Bernard, Mr. Napier, Lord Jocelyn, Mr. Disraeli and others, on the ground of its democratic tendencies, and of the danger, by reducing the franchise to 8*l.* of throwing it open to classes liable to evil influences, and unfit to be entrusted with it. Its principal supporters were Mr. Sheil, Sir James Graham, and Lord John Russell. Sir James GRAHAM'S speech was remarkable for the broad ground on which he supported the measure; alluding to the objection that the Bill would unduly enlarge the constituent body, he said, "I do not object to it on that ground. I must say, considering the increase of the democratic element in our institutions, that I see the greatest danger in erecting an immense superstructure upon a narrow electoral basis. Sir, if that superstructure cannot stand upon an extended electoral basis, I am sure that a narrow basis cannot long sustain it. On principle, therefore, I cannot object to this bill as it extends that basis. Allusion has been made to what has lately been witnessed elsewhere, and I think it is not good policy to neglect examples which are patent and before our eyes. If I were to mention what in my humble judgment was the immediate cause of the fall of the kingly power of Louis Philippe, it would be, that he attempted to maintain the semblance of representative government with a constituent body, which, as compared with the great bulk of the population, was dangerously narrow, and utterly inadequate. What was the consequence? A tumult arose in the metropolis, and the Goverment was overthrown without a struggle. His power was buried in this ruin; and the consequence has been, that for the last two years the nation has been plunged into anarchy, and property and life have been rendered insecure. But what is the return of the wave, and the reaction from that state of things following the universal extension of the suffrage in France? The return is a desire to base the suffrage, restricted as compared with universal suffrage, on household suffrage, on permanent residence, and the payment of local taxation. And, I am sure that that is a safe

basis on which to test the franchise." These remarks were loudly cheered throughout. The result of the division was that the third reading was carried by 254 to 186, and the bill passed.

On Monday the 13th, on the third reading of the *Australian Colonies Bill*, Mr. GLADSTONE moved an amendment, in substance, that legislation on the subject should not proceed further till the people and the authorities in the Colonies were enabled to consider the provisions of the measure as they stand, and the several proposals for varying them. He objected to the bill on four special grounds:—1. The constant interference of the authorities at home with the management of local Colonial affairs; 2. The power given to any two—a minority—of the five Colonies to erect a General Assembly able to override the Legislatures in all the Colonies; 3. The framing of the constitution with a single Legislative Chamber; 4. The refusal to deal with the elective franchise. And he protested against imposing on Parliament a management of enormous expense and responsibility, against the will and not in accordance with the wants of the colonists.—Mr. ROEBUCK seconded the amendment.—Mr. HAWES deprecated postponement, insisting that the colonists had sufficiently considered their future constitution, and were generally satisfied with the measure proposed to them.—Mr. HUME felt so much anxiety to remove the baneful influence of the Colonial-office, that he would not consent to postpone for another session the gift of a constitution to Australia. It might not be altogether good, but was the best that could be hoped for under the auspices of the department, and contained an element of self-rectification in the power given to the colonists to modify their constitution hereafter.—The other speakers were, for the bill, Mr. Anstey, Mr. Aglionby, and Mr. Macgregor; for the amendment, Mr. Denison, Mr. Scott, Mr. Simeon, and Mr. Adderley.—The amendment was negatived by 266 to 128.—Mr. ROEBUCK moved the insertion of a clause extending the principle of a Federal Assembly to Canada, which he withdrew without a division. —Mr. AGLIONBY moved a clause including New Zealand, which was negatived by 222 to 82. The bill then passed.

On the motion of Lord ASHLEY, the House went into committee *pro formâ* on *the Factories Bill*, in order to have the clauses of his lordship's bill withdrawn, and the Government measure substituted. The formality was completed after some discussion, during which a promise was elicited from Sir G. Grey that an early day should be fixed for recommitting the bill, so as to have the ten-hour principle fairly debated and disposed of.

On Tuesday the 14th, Mr. GRANTLEY BERKELEY moved for a committee of the whole House to take into consideration the laws relative to the *Importation of Foreign Corn*. He entered largely into the agricultural question, arguing that the only remedy for the existing distress was a return to the principle of protection.—Colonel DUNNE seconded the motion.—A long debate ensued; the motion being supported by the Marquis of Granby, Col. Sibthorp, Mr. Miles, Mr. Sandars, Mr. Herries, Mr. Disraeli, and Mr. Newdegate; and opposed by Mr. Hastie, Mr. Slaney, Sir B. Hall, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Labouchere, and Mr. Cobden.—Mr. DISRAELI, while he voted for the motion, objected to it as too limited in its character, embracing the interest of one class only, instead of the interests of all, and he disclaimed any desire for an immediate return to protection. However he might differ from the policy of 1846, he respected the gravity of that policy and of the great contingencies which it involved. He did not wish to see the legislature pass laws, and then, like a capricious woman, within a year and a half turn round and repeal all they had done. His motion was lost by 298 to 184.

On Thursday, the 16th, the *Greek Question* was brought before the House by Mr. Milner Gibson, who requested explanation as to the departure of the French Ambassador. Lord PALMERSTON said, "It is well known that the French Ambassador went yesterday to Paris, in order personally to be the medium of communication between the two Governments as to these matters; but I trust nothing can arise out of these circumstances likely to disturb the friendly relations between the two countries."

The House went into Committee on the *Marriages Bill*, having previously negatived, by 42 to 40, a motion by Mr. DIVETT, against proceeding with the bill, which he characterised as "scandalous and immoral." In the Committee, Sir F. THESIGER moved an amendment to prevent the bill from having a retrospective effect, which was negatived by 111 to 68. Another amendment to exclude Scotland from the operation of the bill was moved by Mr. FOX MAULE, who affirmed that the measure was adverse to the wishes and feelings of the whole Scottish community. The LORD ADVOCATE admitted the general truth of this statement, but contended for the necessity of making the law uniform. He gave it as his professional opinion, that marriage with a deceased wife's sister is not forbidden by the existing law of Scotland: and Mr. COCKBURN mentioned a case where an Englishman, divorced and re-married in Scotland, had been convicted of bigamy in England, and sent to the hulks for a marriage which the Scotch lawyers assured him was legal. Mr. Fox Maule's amendment was negatived by 144 to 137.

On Friday the 17th, further explanations were demanded by Mr. DISRAELI, on the subject of the *Recal of the French Ambassador*.—Lord John RUSSELL said, in answer, that Lord Normanby had received a statement from General de la Hitte that in consequence of the ill-treatment of France by the government of this country, he had thought it necessary to recal M. Drouin de Lhuys; at the same time, as M. Drouin de Lhuys had been sent over for the special purpose of effecting an arrangement on the Greek affair, and the affair had terminated, it was natural that he should return home. Lord John Russell regretted this feeling on the part of the French government, and felt convinced that if M. Gros had not, for some unaccountable reason, suddenly given up his mission, there would have been ample time for the arrival of the despatch of her Majesty's government in Athens, and this misunderstanding would not have occurred. Sir John WALSH asked whether, when Lord Palmerston made his statement the preceding night, he had General de la Hitte's letter to the French ambassador in his possession?—Lord John RUSSELL said, that when Lord Palmerston made his statement, he had not that letter in his possession.—Mr. ROEBUCK observed, that the ordinary form in such cases, is, to communicate the note by reading it; if M. Drouyn de Lhuys did so, Lord Palmerston must have been in full possession of the facts when he made his explanatory statement to Mr. Milner Gibson.—Lord John RUSSELL said that M. Drouyn de Lhuys read the letter, but communicated no copy of it; "and my noble friend, in his statement to the house yesterday, gave what was his impression of the case."—Sir John WALSH: "Still, he was in full possession of the contents of the note."—Lord John RUSSELL: "No doubt; at the same time, the French ambassador accompanied it with such observations as he thought proper to make. A very long interview took place."—In reply to Mr. ANSTEY, Lord John RUSSELL said, "There has been no order sent recalling Lord Normanby, and I trust no such order will be found necessary." Lord Palmerston, who had been absent during these questions and answers, made his appearance in the House, when, by the rules of the House, it was too late to question him on the subject.

Lord John RUSSELL introduced a bill to abolish the *Viceregal Office in Ireland*. The bill gives power to the Queen to abolish the office by order in Council; to appoint a fourth Secretary of State, chargeable like the others with any of the functions of a Secretary of State, but in practice with Irish affairs: some of the functions of the Lord-Lieutenant will be transferred to the Secretary for the Home Department, others be given to Her Majesty in Council. The Lord Chancellor of Ireland will be President of the Privy Council in Ireland.—The bill was opposed by several Irish members, but leave was given to bring it in by 107 to 13.

After the adjournment for the Whitsun holidays the House met on the 23rd. Lord PALMERSTON entered into explanations relative to the difference with France arising out of the Greek question. He defended the truth of his statement on the preceding Thurday; the fact being, as he had said, that M. Drouin de Lhuys had not been recalled, but rather ordered to return to

Paris, and had gone charged with documents and explanations for his government of a conciliatory tendency. After giving a narrative of the whole negotiations, Lord Palmerston expressed his regret that any misunderstanding had arisen, disclaimed any wish to slight the mediation of France, and trusted that good feeling would speedily be restored. Some comments on these explanations were made by Sir J. Walsh, Lord Mahon, the Hon. J. Smythe, Mr. Drummond, and Mr. Disraeli. Lord John RUSSELL replied to Mr. Disraeli's observations, vindicated the sincerity of his own statements on a previous evening, and expressed his desire and hope that the misunderstanding should cease. The subject then dropped.

Mr. ANSTEY moved a resolution to enforce the existing excise laws prohibiting the fraudulent adulteration of coffee. The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER declared he would not undertake a vexatious and ineffectual crusade against the coffee-dealers. The motion was withdrawn.—The house went into a Committee of Supply on the Naval Estimates, and several sums were voted. The vote of 100,000*l.* for Pirates' Head Money passed, after some opposition from Mr. COBDEN, Mr. BRIGHT, and Col. THOMPSON.

On the 24th Mr. BLACKSTONE moved a resolution for repealing the 10 per cent addition on the *Excise and Windows Duties*, which was negatived by 130 to 65.—In reply to a question from Lord C. Hamilton, Lord PALMERSTON denied that the Sardinian aggressions on the Austrian dominions in Italy had been suggested by Lord Minto.—In the Committee of Supply various miscellaneous sums were voted. A long discussion took place on the expenditure connected with the New Houses of Parliament, objections being made to various items of it. On one article, a sum of 1000 gs. to decorate the peers' private room with paintings,—a specific motion was made by Sir de Lacy Evans; and on a division this sum was disallowed by a majority of 94 to 75.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—April 25th. Titles of Religious Congregations Bill, Regulation of Pleadings Bill, and Pirates' Head-Money Bill, passed through Committee.

29th.—Fisheries in Scotland Bill read a first time.—West India Appeals Bill read a second time.

30th.—Process and Practice (Ireland) Bill read a second time.—West India Appeal Bill went through Committee.—Titles of read a third time.

May 2nd.—Address to the Queen on the birth of a Prince.—West India Appeals Bill read a third time.

3rd.—Pirates' Head-Money Bill read a third time and passed.—Indemnity Bill read a second time.

6th.—Administration of Justice Improvement Bill read a second time. Appeals from Ecclesiastical Court Bill read a first time.

7th.—Annual Indemnity Bill read a third time and passed.—Process and Practice (Ireland) Bill reported.

13th.—Distressed Unions Advances (Ireland) Bill read a second time.

14th.—Judgments (Ireland) Bill, and Estates Leasing (Ireland) Bill, read a second time.

16th.—Distressed Unions Advances (Ireland) Bill read a third time and passed.—Sunday Trading Prevention Bill reported.

17th.—Defects in Leases (Ireland) Bill read a second time.—Parish Constables' Bill read a third time and passed.—Adjourned till Monday the 27th.

27th.—The House met after the recess. The Masters Jurisdiction in Equity Bill, the Estates Leasing (Ireland) Bill, and the Judgments (Ireland) Bill, passed through committee.—The Defect in Leases Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed.

House of Commons.—April 25th. Australian Colonies Bill passed through Committee. Securities for Advances (Ireland) Bill read a second time.—Fees (Court of Chancery) Bill read a first time.

26th.—Distressed Unions Advances (Ireland) Bill reported.—Stamps on Marine Insurance, Mr. M'Gregor's motion for abolition negatived.

29th.—Savings Bank Bill read a first time.—Ecclesiastical Commission Bill read a second time.—Naval Prize Balance Bill read a third time and passed.—Defects in Leases Bill read a second time.—Court of Chancery Bill read a first time.

30th.—Public Salaries, Mr. Henley's motion negatived.

May 1st.—Address to the Queen on the birth of a Prince.—Landlord and Tenants' Bill read a second time.—Railway Traffic Bill thrown out on second reading.—Benefices in Plurality Bill in Committee. Parish Constables Bill read a third time and passed.—Schools (Scotland) Bill read a first time.

2nd.—Attorneys' Certificate Duties Abolition Bill brought in and read a first time.—County Court Extension Bill reported.

3rd.—Factories Bill, statement by Sir G. Grey.—Distressed Unions Advances Bill, and Court of Chancery (Irish) forwarded in Committee.

6th.—Australian Colonies Bill reported; Sir W. Molesworth's motion for its recommittal negatived; Mr. Gladstone's motion to add an Ecclesiastical clause negatived.—Distressed Unions Advances (Ireland) Bill read a third time and passed.—Public Health (Ireland) Bill read a second time.—Petty Sessions (Ireland) Bill read a first time.

7th.—Repeal of Advertisement Duty, Mr. Ewart's motion negatived.—Journeyman Bakers, Lord R. Grosvenor's motion for a Committee negatived.

8th.—Mr. Lacy's Extramural Interment Bill, and Mr. Anstey's Irish Fisheries Bill thrown out on second reading.—Borough Gaol Bill read a second time.

9th.—Police Improvement (Scotland) Bill, Court of Sessions Bill, Railways Abandonment Bill, and Elections (Ireland) Bill, passed through Committee.—Benefices in Plurality Bill read a third time and passed.—Weights and Measures Bill read a second time.

10th.—Stamp Duties Bill withdrawn for a new one.—Manchester Rectory Division Bill passed through Committee.—Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill read a third time and passed.—Ecclesiastical Residences (Ireland) Bill, Churches and Chapels (Ireland) Bill, Clergy (Ireland) Bill, and Sunday Fairs Prevention Bill read a first time.

13th.—Australian Colonies Bill read a third time and passed.

14th.—London and Watford Spring Water Company Bill, and Metropolitan Waterworks Bill, thrown out on second reading.—Agricultural Protection, Mr. Grantley Berkeley's motion negatived.—Municipal Corporations (Ireland) Bill read a first time.—Regulation of Deeds (Ireland) Bill reported.—Borough Court of Record (Ireland) Bill, read a first time.

16th.—Mr. Wortley's Marriage Bill, considered in Committee; amendments by Sir F. Thesiger and Mr. Fox Maule negatived.—Borough Bridges Bill read a first time.

17th.—Stamp Duties (No. 2) Bill read a first time.—Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland Abolition Bill read a first time.—Improvement of Land Advances (Ireland) Bill, and Alterations in Pleading Bill read a second time.—Sunday Fairs Prevention Bill read a third time and passed.—Adjourned till Thursday the 23rd.

23rd.—Committee of Supply on Naval Estimates.—Stamp Duties (No. 2.) Bill, Exchequer Bills Bill, and Municipal Corporations (Ireland) Bill, read a second time.

24th.—Swansea Dock Bill read a third time and passed.—Committee of Supply on Miscellaneous Estimates.—Registration of Deeds (Ireland) Bill read a third time and passed.

27th.—The Chester and Holyhead Railway Bill was read a third time.—The River Lea Trust Bill was read a second time.—The House in Committee of Supply.—The Court of Chancery (Ireland) Bill, and Petty Sessions (Ireland) Bill, read a second time.—The Municipal Corporations (Ireland) Bill), and the Vestries and Vestry Clerks Bill, passed through Committee.—The Court of Prerogative (Ireland) Bill was read a second time.

THERE was a great *Protectionist Demonstration* in London on the 7th. The Duke of Richmond and ten other Peers, with upwards of forty Members of Parliament, a crowd of landed proprietors, and delegates from local Protectionist societies in the provinces, met in the Crown and Anchor Tavern, to "consult on the present alarming position of agriculture and other native interests." The speakers, who were principally farmers, gave expression to very violent feelings against free trade. Mr. Booker declared himself ruined by protection, but offered to subscribe 1000*l.* to secure the return of Protectionist candidates. Mr. Allnutt affirmed that free trade had shaken the loyalty of the farmers. A Mr. Chowler, a Nottinghamshire farmer, dwelt on the spirit that was rising among the farmers and labourers. "Hitherto," he said, "the position we had held has been one of peace and quiet; we were not agitating men: but if labourers will congregate—they know the cause, and they do not blame us—is it likely that we shall mount our horses and come forward to stop our labourers from what we all know to be their just rights? If they are industrious and steady, they have the right to have the means of living comfortably; and are we to mount our horses to stop them?" (Here several individuals present called out valiantly 'No! No!' 'I won't,' &c.) "Mr. Cobden says," continued Mr. Chowler, "if you attempt to reintroduce protection, what he will do, and what will become of the landlords.

But I say, that if the landlords stick to us we will stick to them." (At this, the whole assembly rose in a body and cheered vehemently; Lord Stanhope's excitement rose to the pitch of giving the speaker a slap on the back in token of approbation.)—The next speaker, Mr. Ball, was equally energetic; alluding to an alleged observation of Mr. Cobden's at Leeds, that, if the landlords put a single shilling of fixed duty on corn, he would raise such a tumult as would shake the kingdom to its centre, Mr. Ball exclaimed—"The sooner the better! No worse can come." In the name of the tenantry of the country, he declared they were prepared "to risk all, to dare all. They would be prepared, in the hour of the country's peril, to take those terrible steps, most frightful to imagine, which necessity was driving them to contemplate." Here, again, the assembly rose and uttered tremendous cheers, at the close of which a gentleman on the platform proposed three groans for Sir Robert Peel "the arch enemy of the human species;" but the meeting, with all its excitement, was not prepared for this, and the call was not answered. Mr. Caldecott said that Lord John Russell was a public destroyer; and Mr. Higgins called on Government to redress their wrongs—if not, they would "fight for it." A good deal more hot-blooded language was used and responded to by loud acclamations. The Noble Chairman counselled moderation; and resolutions somewhat moderate in tone were passed, and a deputation appointed to represent to the Prime Minister the state of thecountry.

On the 11th this deputation, headed by Mr. G. F. Young, the Chairman of the National Association for the Protection of British Industry, had an interview with Lord John Russell, who heard them and replied to them with great attention and courtesy, making them aware at the same time that his mind was made up, and that he did not think himself called on to advise Her Majesty to dissolve the Parliament, or to take any other step on the subject. Mr. Young made a sort of apology for the strong language which had been used, and which was not to be held as conveying the general sentiments of the meeting. Lord John said, that on such occasions great latitude of speech must be allowed, and that though there had been language somewhat stronger than necessary, the Duke of Richmond had gone as far in censuring it, as he himself would have done.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

Two juvenile offenders were brought before the Middlesex Sessions on the 25th April; the one, Thomas Smith, aged fourteen, and the other, James Cook, aged *ten*. They had stolen twelve wine glasses. The judge said he had obtained the history of the younger boy, Cook, which would illustrate the operation of *Summary Punishments*. He found that though only ten years old, he had, during the last twelvemonth, undergone seven sentences of imprisonment and six whippings; yet here he was again. He had no home, and no means of subsistence. The Court could not, as the law at present stood, send him to Parkhurst, where he would have received an education which would have enabled him to have earned his future livelihood; and there was no other course than to send him again to a common prison. The sentence, therefore, was that each prisoner should undergo imprisonment and hard labour for six months.

On the 25th of April an application was made, in the Queen's Bench, for a *Criminal Information* against the Plymouth and Devonport Journal, for an alleged libel against Miss Sellon, the superior of the Sisters of Mercy, residing in Devonport. These ladies had presented a service of communion plate to the church of Stoke Damerel; and the above newspaper had stated that the plate would be paid for out of 14,000*l.* which the Sisters of Mercy had received from the public. They had complained to the proprietor, and he had answered that if they assured him that the statement was unfounded, he would immediately express his satisfaction in his paper. They conceived it necessary, however, to ask the protection of the Court. The application for a rule was granted; bnt the rule was subsequently discharged, by mutual consent, on payment of costs.

At the Mansion House on the 26th April, Maria Biscomb was committed to prison for three months with hard labour for obtaining five shillings from a gentleman by the *Feigned death of a Child*. This woman was well known as a notorious swindler, and had been continually in prison. On one occasion she applied to a lady for assistance, representing that she had a child lying dead, and was unable to bury it. The lady visited her house, and saw apparently the body of a child covered with a cloth. She gave the prisoner 10*s.*, but on going to a window she heard a voice from beneath the cloth exclaim, "Mother, how long am I to be dead?"

A case at the Thames Police Court on the same day produced a startling disclosure of *American Law respecting Persons of Colour*. A black man named Bowers claimed a balance of wages from Captain Waddington, master of the barque Mary Anne; and the claim was resisted on the ground that Captain Waddington had paid 20*l.* for the man's keep while he remained in gaol for two months at Charleston. It turned out that the vessel, on arriving at Charleston, had been boarded by the authorities, and Bowers taken out of her and lodged in prison, where he was kept all the time she remained in the harbour, simply because he was a man of colour. By the law of the State of South Carolina, it seems, no man of colour, not belonging to the State, is allowed to be at large; and all coloured men who come into the State are put in prison. Men found on board of vessels are taken out of them and kept in prison till the vessel sails; the master being charged so much a day for their support. The magistrate adjourned the case, and on the 29th expressed his opinion that, as the Captain, who was aware of the practice, had taken Bowers with him without any stipulation as to deduction from his wages in case of his being put in prison, Bowers was entitled to his full wages; and gave judgment accordingly. This matter, it will be observed, was brought before the House of Commons on the 29th of April.

The Court of Queen's Bench having, in the *Gorham Case*, refused the Bishop of Exeter's application to prohibit the Court of Arches from giving effect to the decision of the Privy Council, an application was made on the 2nd instant by the Bishop to the court of Common Pleas to grant a rule similar to that which the Court of Queen's Bench had refused. The Court gave judgment on the 27th. It was similar to the previous judgment of the Queen's Bench; deciding that the appeal from the Court of Arches was to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and therefore refusing the application of the Bishop of Exeter

An instance of the *Punishment of Crime in the Act of its Perpetration* occurred at Hove, near Brighton, on the 27th of April. On the previous day, a man entered the Ship Inn, ordered some refreshment, and engaged a bed for the night. Early next morning he was found lying in the street, under the inn windows, bleeding and insensible; and died in a few hours, never having spoken. A bundle filled with the landlord's bedding was lying by his side, and it appeared that he had fallen while endeavouring to escape with his booty. An inquest was held on his body, but nothing was known of his name or residence.

A well-dressed man, named Charles Stanley, was charged at Bow Street on the 29th April with defrauding Henry Louton of 10*l.* The complainant had answered *Advertisements "for a Clerk and Messenger,"* and had consequently met Mr. Stanley, who took him into his employment under a written agreement, and required him to deposit 10*l.* in his hands as a security. The complainant soon found he had no real duties to perform, and that he could neither get the stipulated salary, nor restitution of his 10*l.* The magistrate said he could do nothing in such a case, the only recourse was to a County court. Such scandalous frauds were constantly committed, and it was impossible for the law to protect people who would not take the slightest pains to protect themselves by a little previous inquiry. The prisoner was consequently discharged amid the execrations of the people present. It was stated that a young man was in the Court who, duped by one of these advertisements, had come with his wife and children from a distant part of the country, had exhausted his entire means by paying his travelling expenses and

the deposit exacted from him, and was now quite destitute.

Charles Jopling was charged at the Marylebone police court, on the 30th of April, with having *Administered Chloroform* to Mary Ann Elton, with a criminal intent. Jopling was the girl's suitor, and on the previous evening she accompanied him to a singing-room at a public house near the Regent's Park, her brother-in-law being of the party. They walked homewards together, and, the brother having left them, he led her down a yard, and after attempting to take liberties with her, poured the contents of a phial on his handkerchief, which he applied to her nose and mouth. She called out, and gave him in charge to a policeman who came up. The prisoner was remanded upon bail, to afford time for further inquiry. On the 7th, the case was proceeded with, when, to the surprise of all present, a certificate was produced of the marriage of the complainant and the girl that morning at the church of St. Mary-le-Strand. Some of the girl's relatives came forward and alleged that she had been entrapped into this marriage, and she was closely questioned by the magistrate. But she steadily persisted in saying that it was with her free will, and added, looking lovingly at her bridegroom, "Oh, I am quite sure he will use me well, and that we shall be happy and comfortable." It was still insisted, however, that the marriage was a conspiracy to defeat the ends of justice; and the prisoner was again remanded for a week.

A young girl, named Catherine Morris, the daughter of a farmer at Clapham, threw herself into one of the basins in Trafalgar Square, on the night of the 30th of April; a passer-by saw the act, and managed to get her out when life was almost gone. The young woman was found to be *Insane from Religious Fanaticism*; she said she had been baptizing herself in the pool.

A case of *Heartless Seduction* came before the sheriff's court, on the 2nd of May. Joseph Payne, a tradesman at Bedford, was left a widower with seven children, the eldest of whom was Emma, a girl of sixteen, on whom the care of his family devolved. Another tradesman of the town, Samuel Plowman, paid his addresses to the girl, and visited her with her father's sanction, professing the most honourable intentions. This continued for nearly two years, till the father discovered that Plowman had effected his daughter's ruin, and in December last she gave birth to a child. For some time the seducer promised to repair the injury by marriage; but, as he evaded fulfilment, the father urged him to keep his word, and received in answer the following letter:

"January 29, 1850.

"Sir—In answer to your request of last night, concerning either from me, or trying other means, I suppose by that you mean to bring it into court. If you have any regard for your daughter, you would not think of such an exposure. As it regards marrying, I decidedly shall not, and for this reason, I am too fond of a single life ever to think of such a thing. Without any further trouble on your part or mine, I propose to pay two-and-sixpence a week for the child.

"I am, Sir, yours,

"SAMUEL PLOWMAN.

"P. S.—An answer to-morrow, in writing, will oblige.

"To Mr. Payne."

The Jury gave the plaintiff 60*l.* damages, for the loss of his daughter's services.

In the Insolvent Court, on the 3rd, Josiah Wilson, the son of a farmer near Leeds, defended himself by means of *Defamation*. He was opposed by a young woman named Jane Dunn, who complained that after he had long paid his addresses to her, she had lent him 27*l.*, and that instead of fulfilling his engagement, he had married a new love in London. He denied the loan, and brought forward gross charges against the young woman's character, asserted that he had for years had an illicit connexion with her, and that she had robbed him of money at different times. The debt however was proved, and as he had no evidence in support of his imputations against the girl, the court refused his application for protection.

A case was decided in the Court of Exchequer, on the 3rd, involving an important question, as to the *Responsibility of Railway Companies for the acts of their servants*. Mr. Gay, a city merchant, took a third-class ticket at the Romford station of the Eastern Counties Railway, for London. All the third-class carriages were full, and, as the train was starting, he was desired to get into a second-class carriage. At Shoreditch he was stopped, charged with riding in a second-class carriage with a third-class ticket, carried to the Worship Street police office, and placed at the bar; but the magistrate said that the proper course would have been to obtain a summons against him, and he was discharged. He was never summoned, and brought an action of trespass and false imprisonment against the Company. The defence was, that the superintendent at Shoreditch had no authority to act as he had acted, and the Company were not responsible. The Jury intimated their intention to find for the plaintiff. Baron Alderson interposed with some warmth, "Do you wish," he said to the jury, "that we should exchange functions—that you decide the law and I the facts? The law is clear. The Company are not to be responsible for their servant's acts, because they continue him in their service, unless those acts are authorised by them." The jury, after some hesitation, returned a verdict for the defendants, the plaintiff's counsel tendering a bill of exceptions, for a new trial.

Mr. Pulszky, a Hungarian gentleman residing in this country, applied to the Court of Queen's Bench on the 6th, for a criminal information against Mr. Murray, the publisher of the *Quarterly Review*, for libel. An article of that Journal had spoken of the Hungarian agents who had made common cause with the rebels and outcasts from Germany, France, and Poland, and accused them as participators in the Vienna rebellion, and in the murder of Count Latour, charging them with having scattered money among desperate men, and drowned their sense of humanity in intoxicating liquors; and it then went on to say, that among these guilty parties were those who were now members of clubs in this country, were received at the houses of our noblemen, nay of our Cabinet ministers, and whose names were blazoned in the daily papers as their guests. Mr. Pulszky swore that he believed this libel to be directed against him, because he was a member of the Reform Club, and had visited at the houses of British noblemen, especially at the residence of Lord Lansdowne, and had had his name published in the papers as one of his lordship's guests. He showed that he had left Vienna before Count Latour's death, and denied any participation, directly or indirectly, in that nobleman's murder. The Court were of opinion that a sufficient case for interference had not been made out. They had not the smallest doubt of Mr. Pulszky's innocence and honour, and were satisfied that there was nothing in the article in question to point at him or do any injury to his character. On that ground alone they refused the application.

On the 6th, the Electric Telegraph Company applied to the Queen's Bench for a Criminal Information against Messrs. Wilmer and Smith, news-agents in Liverpool, for publishing a letter accusing the Company of *Favouritism in the Transmission of News*, and for using news for their own purposes. The defendants contended that by Act of Parliament the Company is precluded from using on its account the intelligence it transmits; and that, nevertheless, the Company had assumed the functions of regular news-agents. The Court refused the application, abstaining from any statement of reasons, as a civil action is pending between the parties.

Charlecote Lucy, near Stratford-upon-Avon, celebrated as the seat of Shakspeare's Justice Shallow, was *Broken into and Robbed* on the night of the 6th. The property stolen consisted chiefly of articles of jewellery; a ring presented by Henry VIII. to his treasurer; a miniature of the celebrated Sir Thomas Lucy, of Shakspeare's day; a great number of gold coins and other property, to the value of several hundred pounds. One of the burglars was taken in Birmingham at his lodgings, and a great portion of the property was found upon him.

Two little children, whose heads scarcely reached the top of the dock, were charged at Bow Street on the 7th with *Stealing a Loaf* out of a baker's shop. They said, in defence, that they were starving, and their appearance showed that they spoke the truth. They were sentenced to be whipped in the House of Correction.

John and Ellen Griffin, who appeared to be mendi-

cants, were tried at the Central Criminal Court on the 7th instant, charged with receiving goods stolen by a young girl named Emma Evor. The case showed the way in which children are *Regularly Trained to Crime*. The girl, who was about fifteen, had run away from her father, a decent tradesman, and fallen into the hands of the Griffins, who promised to show her how to get a living, and took her home with them. She used to be sent out and directed by the woman to steal tea, sugar, bacon, meat,—whatever she could lay her hands on. She never got more than a halfpenny for what she brought home; if she brought nothing, she had no money nor anything to eat, and was obliged to go and pick up refuse in Spitalfields market to satisfy her hunger. At length she was found by her father, who took her home. The evidence was found insufficient to convict the husband, but the woman was sentenced to a year's imprisonment with hard labour.

An Advocate for Flogging delivered himself strongly from the bench at the Middlesex Sessions, on the 7th. G. Smith, a boy of twelve years old, was convicted of stealing seventeen and sixpence. His right arm was in splints, having been lately broken. He was of a respectable family, and a gentleman named Sharp promised to get him sent to sea at the expiration of whatever sentence the Court might pronounce, as he had been at sea already. One of the magistrates could not see the use of packing thieves off to sea, and thought the prisoner ought to have a "downright good flogging" in prison. "But," said the judge, "consider, he has got a broken arm." "Oh!" rejoined his colleague, "I wouldn't mind if he had two broken arms, or a broken head, for the matter of that. He decidedly ought to be flogged." The learned judge, however, thought differently, and sentenced the boy to a month's imprisonment, directing him to be then given up to Mr. Sharp.

The "*Agapemone*" has again come under public notice. This, it will be remembered, is an establishment near Bridgewater, in which a number of persons reside together, with community of goods, and professing peculiar opinions. The founder, Mr. Prince, formerly in deacon's orders, having married a young lady of fortune, named Nottidge, and effected marriages between three of his disciples and her three sisters, brought the four ladies and their substance into the community. Considerable noise was made by certain proceedings at the instances of Mr. Prince's relatives, to establish her insanity, in which they failed. Her sister, who became the wife of a Mr. Thomas, not liking the way of life at the Agapemone, tried in vain to induce her husband and sisters to leave it; the consequence of which was that she was expelled the Society, and put away by her husband, when about to give birth to a child. She has since resided with her relatives; and her next of kin has applied to the Vice-Chancellor to appoint a guardian to the infant, now four years old, on the ground of its father's moral unfitness for its custody and education. The case was heard on the 7th and 8th, when, after the reading of affidavits and counter-affidavits, Mr. Thomas defended himself in person. The following description of life in the Agapemone was contained in the evidence of the Rev. Mr. Price, the husband of one of the sisters: "I married Harriet, Mr. Thomas married Agnes, and Mr. Cobbe married Clara. We were all married on the same day at Swansea. I and my wife dwell at the Agapemone, and Mr. and Mrs. Cobbe also. There are fifty or sixty living in the house. We have horses and carriages, and live in good style. I consider that all we do is to the glory of God. I consider that we glorify God when we eat and drink. Every one does as he pleases on the Sunday. We make no difference between that day and any other day. All play at hookey, males as well as females." Mr. Thomas vehemently denied the charges of irreligion and immorality, declaring that "our life is a pure and holy life, and the Agapemone a work of God, holy and religious." The Vice-Chancellor reserved his judgment. On the 23rd, after commenting in the severest language on the conduct of Thomas and his associates, his Honour ordered that the child shall remain in the care of his mother and maternal grandmother, and that the father and his agents shall be restrained from interference.

Alexander Moir, a baker, was tried at the Central Criminal Court, on the 8th, for *Murdering his Wife*. The man, though holding a decent station in life, was in the constant habit of beating and kicking the deceased. It was proved that he had threatened to murder her; he repeatedly said that he would not "murder her outright," but would "kill her by inches," so that the law should not be able to touch him, "he would cheat the devil and the government." He accused his wife of being a drunkard, and it appeared that she was somewhat addicted to liquor, though the surgeon who examined the body said that the appearance of the viscera contradicted the assertion of habitual drunkenness. The jury found a verdict of manslaughter, adding their opinion that it was of the most aggravated kind. The judge concurred, and passed sentence of transportation for life.

An interesting case occurred at the Worship Street police office, on the 8th. Three sunburnt, modest-looking young country girls, whose clothes were drenched with rain, presented themselves before the magistrate to tell their story and ask his aid. They were natives of Wisbeach in Cambridgeshire, and being orphans, had been sheltered for a considerable time in the Union Workhouse of that place. Anxious to get employment, and having heard of emigration and other benevolent establishments in London, they left the workhouse to go to London, without a farthing in their pocket or any knowledge of the road. In four days they walked the distance, nearly a hundred miles, and at length found themselves in the parish of Hackney, where they were lodged in the union for that night. During the whole of the last day's journey they had not tasted a morsel of food, and on being turned out that morning from the Hackney Union had wandered into Shoreditch, where they applied to one of the parish officers, who, on hearing their story, advised them to submit their case to the magistrate, who might be able to afford them some assistance. The magistrate expressed much compassion for the poor girls, and said he should inquire what could be done for them, and have them taken care of in the mean time.

Another case of swindling by means of a *Mock Agency Office* for providing young men with situations, occurred at Bow Street on the 10th, when Sidney Robert Sparks was charged with defrauding a young man, named Levy, of 50*l*. The prosecutor, a country lad, was brought to town by an advertisement in the usual style, and introduced to a confederate, who pretended to receive him into his employment, and took from him 50*l*. by way of security. He soon found that he neither got employment, nor could he recover his money. The landlord of the office which the prisoner had occupied, said that young men congregated there daily, bewailing the loss of their money, and exclaiming against the way in which they had been deceived. The magistrate said that there were daily complaints made to him of such proceedings, and remanded the prisoner for further inquiry, refusing to take bail.

Walter Watts, late lessee of the Olympic Theatre, was tried at the Central Criminal Court on the 10th, on the charge of *Stealing a Cheque for* 1400*l*. from the Globe Insurance Company in whose employment he was. He was found guilty, on one of the counts of the indictment, of "stealing a piece of paper;" but the point of law was reserved, whether this is sufficient to constitute a criminal charge.

A barrister, named Kenealy, was tried at the Central Criminal Court on the 11th, on the charge of having committed an *Aggravated Assault on a Child of Six Years*, his natural son. The child was found, one day in February last, crying in the street, and taken to a police station, where it was found he had been cruelly beaten; his back, legs, and neck being covered with stripes and bruises. The child was afterwards taken to the West London Union, at whose instance this prosecution was brought. The defence was that the blows were given by way of parental castigation, and that the father had really been very kind to the child, and careful of his education; which, indeed, was proved to have been the case. Lord Campbell was of opinion that no serious stain could attach to Mr. Kenealy's character. With respect to corporeal punishment, he was rather inclined

to agree with Dr. Johnson, that if you abolish it, "what you gain at one end you will lose at the other." Mr. Kenealy appeared to have had a tender affection for the child, and to have treated him with the utmost care, but it was for the Jury to decide whether the chastisement had been excessive. The Jury found Kenealy guilty of a common assault.

On the same day, Louisa Hartley was tried for attempting to *Poison her Father*. The circumstances of this case were mentioned in our last number. The proof rested almost wholly on the evidence of the father, who, it appeared, had treated his daughter so ill, and evinced so much malice towards her, that his testimony was not considered worthy of credit, and the girl was *acquitted*. It was stated that she would be taken under the care of the Ladies' Committee of the gaol, and that some measures would be taken for her future welfare.

Cautley's Divorce Bill came before the House of Lords on the 10th and 13th. Lieut.-Col. Cautley, of the East India Company's Service, in the year 1838 married at Calcutta a young lady named Frances Bacon. In 1843, in consequence of the ill health of their child, Mrs. Cautley came to England, and was kindly received by her husband's family. In the end of 1845 Col. Cautley returned from India, and they lived together till June, 1846, when, having heard suspicious accounts of his wife's manner of life in his absence, he made inquiries, which confirmed his suspicions, and, breaking open her writing-desk, he found letters from a Major Cooper, which indicated a guilty connexion between them. Other circumstances transpired, and Col. Cautley obtained a divorce in the Ecclesiastical Court, and damages of 1000*l.* against Major Cooper. Col. Cautley then returned to India, where he still remains. On the days above mentioned a great deal of evidence was taken; and, their lordships considering the case to be proved, the Bill was read a second time and ordered to be committed.

The nuisance of *Penny Theatres* received a check at the Lambeth Police Court on the 14th. Several men and women were charged with performing at an unlicensed theatre; and a dozen others of the lowest grade, and some of them well-known thieves, were charged with being a portion of the audience. A police constable described a visit to the theatre. Accompanied by a friend, he went to the door, and each having paid his penny, they entered the place allotted to the audience, and saw the prisoners on the stage. They were dressed in character, and were performing in some play. During the performance, he saw one of the prisoners pick the pockets of three of the performers, and on each occasion he was cheered by the audience. Mr. Maud, addressing Captain Stiles, said, he was out of collar and wanted 500*l.*, upon which the Captain replied that he had no money to give him. Maud then said, "Then you must come and do a job with me to-night;" to which Captain Stiles replied, "Very well, I 'll go with you, but it shall be the last time; we have committed many crimes together, but this shall be the last." The actors then arranged to commit a burglary and were preparing a scaling-ladder on the stage to enter a house, when the police rushed on the stage and secured the prisoners. The actors were sentenced to a penalty of 20*s.* each or fourteen days' imprisonment; and the audience portion of the prisoners were discharged with a severe caution. Immediately afterwards, several persons apprehended as performers and audience at another place of a similar description, but where the admission was only a half-penny, were dealt with in the same manner.

On Tuesday the 14th, Henri Joseph Stephan, a hornplayer in the orchestra of Her Majesty's Theatre, *Plunged from the top of the Duke of York's column*, and was killed on the spot. No special cause was assigned for the act, but it appeared that for some days preceding he had been gloomy and unsettled in his mind. At the inquest a verdict of "Temporary Insanity" was returned, the jury recommending that a railing should be placed round the top of the column. This has since been commenced.

Another *Savings Bank Defalcation* has transpired, showing the loose way in which these establishments have been managed. The Market Weighton Bank, a branch of the Hull Bank, has been managed for fourteen years by Mr. Jeremiah Roantree, a draper in the place, an influential member of the Wesleyan Society, and a person whose character was beyond suspicion. The Hull Bank having resolved to investigate the affairs of its branches, sent a deputation to Market Weighton for that purpose on the 10th inst. Mr. Roantree requested them to defer the inquiry till the following week, which they declined; and he then admitted that out of 8000*l.* which has passed through his hands, there is a deficit of no less than 1900*l.* It appears from the books, that a system of entering fictitious names and abstracting sums of money has been carried on from the commencement of Roantree's connexion with the branch. Different sums, varying from 1*l.* to 85*l.*, had been abstracted at one time. It seems, also, that he had the entire management, and generally sat alone. He used occasionally to call in an old director, upwards of seventy years of age, and has admitted that he was afraid of calling in others lest the error should be detected. He had also appointed parties to be directors, and never intimated the fact to them. In addition to the defalcation at the Bank, his liabilities are said to be nearly 3000*l.*

In the bankruptcy of *Martin Luther Pritchard*, the Court, on the 15th, gave judgment, allowing the bankrupt's accounts to pass. The bankrupt was deputy-chairman of the South-Eastern Railway Company. He had been clerk to Mr. Forsyth, a Liverpool share-broker, who took him into partnership in 1839. In 1844, Forsyth retired, and Pritchard, having taken Dale, his clerk, into partnership, carried on business till the bankruptcy in 1849. The transactions of these ten years were very extensive and complicated; but it appeared from his statements, that during some period previous to his bankruptcy, the profits of his business had been above 7000*l.* a-year. The Court expressed no opinion as to his conduct as a trader, reserving that point for the question of the certificate.

Between one and two in the morning of the 16th, the house of Mr. Richbell, at Wickham St. Paul's, in Essex, was *Broken into by Thieves*, who forced open the front door, and the door of the parlour where Mrs. Richbell, who is infirm, was sleeping. One man broke open a bureau, while another endeavoured to stifle Mrs. Richbell's cries by holding his hand on her mouth. A servant girl who slept at the back of the house jumped out of the window, ran to a neighbouring cottage for help, and brought with her a labourer armed with a poker. Mr. Richbell, who slept up stairs, got up at the same time, and the robbers, finding themselves discovered, made off after a short scuffle, and escaped. The window from which the courageous girl jumped is more than twelve feet from the ground.

The case of *Edward Thomas Delafield*, lately lessee of the Royal Italian Opera, was again before the Bankruptcy Court on the 21st, when Mr. Lawrance was heard in opposition to his application for a certificate, and Mr. Cooke in support of it. The Commissioner deferred giving judgment. This case has been frequently before the public. Mr. Delafield entered upon the management of the opera with a fortune of 90,000*l.*; and it appears that at present the amount of his debts is nearly 40,000*l.*, and of his assets, 1096*l.*

William and Mark Hutchins, and William Marsh, three boys of from 11 to 13 years old, the victims of *Infamous Parents*, were charged on the 21st, at Guildhall, with picking a boy's pocket. They said that they had been driven by necessity to commit the crime—their parents having turned them out of doors, to get their own living as they best could. It was ascertained by inquiries that they had obtained a lodging for the night previous to being taken into custody, for which they agreed to pay 4*d.* The mother of Hutchins proceeded to the lodgings, and took the 4*d.* as well as the small stock of congreve matches by which the poor boys had hitherto obtained a living, since which they had slept under barrows and carts in Smithfield, and had been for days without tasting food, until they could no longer bear the pangs of hunger, and, as a last resource, committed the theft to obtain bread. They said they could maintain themselves by selling congreves, if their parents would not seize upon their stock and proceeds. Alderman Gibbs then directed the officer to take them to the East

London Union, and to request the relieving officer to take them in, and take care of them.

On the 22nd, Mr. and Mrs. Boreham, described as a "respectable" farmer and his wife, were tried at the Chelmsford Sessions for inhuman *Cruelty to a Workhouse Child*, 10 years old, in their service. One night the farmer and his wife came home drunk. The child, worn out with fatigue, had lain down on a bed and fallen asleep, leaving the candle burning. The woman made her strip herself naked, when they both beat her so cruelly that her whole body was one mass of bruises and wounds, and so great was the injury that for several days her life was despaired of. The chairman, on the part of the magistrates present, expressed their horror and detestation of the cruelty to which this helpless child had been subjected, and fined the prisoners *5l.*

S. Beamish was charged at the Marlborough Police Court on the 22nd with attempting to defraud the public by a *Begging Petition*. About two months ago he called at the house of Mr. Frankum, in Burlington-gardens, and introduced himself as a physician. He made himself quite at home, examining the ornaments on the mantel-piece, and making comments on them He represented himself to be a great traveller; talked of his reminiscences of Rome, Naples, and other places in Italy. Mr. Frankum at length got tired of his visit, and pressed him as to the purport of it, when he told him he was in great distress and wanted some ready money, and in fact he was so much reduced, that half-a-crown would be a God-send. Mr. Frankum, suspecting him to be an impostor, sent for a constable and gave him in charge. The prisoner had previously given him a paper containing the names of Dr. Moore and other medical gentlemen, who, the prisoner stated, had relieved him with money. This paper the prisoner tried to burn, but was prevented. There were about twenty other gentlemen in the court who had been duped by the prisoner. The superintendent of the Dover police produced a warrant for the apprehension of the prisoner, who had absconded from his bail, having been charged at Dover with defrauding various persons there; and the magistrate gave him in charge to that officer, to be conveyed to Dover.

Mr. Robert Lindsay Mauleverer, a magistrate in the county of Londonderry, and an agent over extensive estates in the North of Ireland, *was Murdered* on the 23rd. He was travelling on an outside car to meet the train on the Dundalk and Enniskillen railway, when he was shot through the head and killed on the spot. He had been engaged of late in serving ejectment notices on a very extensive scale. Two persons have been arrested on suspicion.

In a *Fatal Phrenzy occasioned by love*, a young man named Cooper destroyed himself on the 25th. At the Inquest, which was held on his body, the chief witness was a young woman named Straker, with whom he was violently in love, but who was unable to return his passion. She said that his attentions had been more violent than agreeable, particularly during the last fourteen weeks, and on one occasion she was so much persecuted by him that she threatened to apply to a magistrate. On Saturday the 25th, Cooper called at her house, and when she opened the door he held a pistol at her, and said he would blow her brains out. She ran instantly up stairs, and called the landlord of the house. They afterwards heard the report of a pistol, and discovered the deceased lying in the parlour a corpse. The upper part of his head appeared to be blown to pieces, and a pistol was lying by his side. The police were called in, and the following letter, addressed to his father, in the handwriting of the deceased, was found in his pocket:—"Dear Father—When you receive this I shall be no more, for I have made up my mind to live no longer without Miss Straker. Her shadow is always following me, and my thoughts are constantly with her." The jury agreed to a verdict of "Temporary Insanity."

Charles and C. Machin, charged at Guildhall with obtaining various sums of money and a large number of law-books, from solicitors and other persons, *Under False Pretences*, were, on the 27th, fully committed to Newgate for trial.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

MUCH interest has been excited by the arrival at Liverpool of a large body of *Shipwrecked Emigrants*. They were poor people from the neighbourhood of Galway, who had sailed from that port in an emigrant ship, which foundered at sea in the middle of the Atlantic, but the passengers and crew were saved by Captain Purdy of the Infanta, of New York, who took them on board his vessel and brought them to Liverpool. Their ship had been struck by a heavy sea in a gale, on the 30th of March, and thrown on her beam ends, but the captain contrived to keep her afloat till the 15th of April, when she fell in with the American vessel. Two of the passengers died of injuries received when the ship was struck, and the people suffered inexpressible hardship, till they were rescued, when the ship was almost sinking. Several vessels passed near them, but paid no attention to their signals of distress. On the 26th of April, Captain Thomas, the master of the emigrant ship, applied at the Liverpool police court for relief to the destitute people, the greater number of whom were helpless women and children; and it was promptly afforded.

The Wyndham club-house in St. James' Square, *Narrowly escaped Destruction* by fire, on the night of the 10th. The fire broke out in the "strangers' room," a magnificent apartment, and the pictures and costly furniture were destroyed before the flames could be got under.

Mr. John Thomas, a druggist at Menai Bridge, was *Killed by an Explosion*, on the 25th of April, while making detonating powder. A piece of the mortar, in which he had been mixing the ingredients, penetrated the great artery of the thigh, causing almost instant death.

The Lostwithiel *Powder-works, near Liskeard, exploded* on the 26th of April. There were in store three or four tons of gunpowder, which went off in three different explosions. The premises were blown to pieces, and the bodies of the two watchers, Pengelly and Truscott, shockingly mutilated. Cottages, a quarter of a mile distant, were unroofed and the walls damaged.

A *Mysterious Death* took place at Clapham on Sunday the 28th of April. Mr. Maddle, a gentleman residing in Claremont place, went to church in the morning, leaving his housekeeepr, Sarah Snelling, an elderly woman, alone in the house, desiring her as usual to lock the doors and gates. On his return he could not obtain admittance by ringing, but found the back garden gate unfastened, and discovered the housekeeper lying dead on the floor of the kitchen, with her head resting on a piece of carpeting, one foot without a shoe, and a coil of rope lying by her. The body presented no sign of violence. The house had been robbed, drawers and boxes forced open, and a number of articles carried off. The Coroner's inquest threw no light upon the affair. The examination of the body discovered no injury, either external or internal, to which death could be ascribed. Some suspicious-looking persons were observed in the neighbourhood of the house, but the police have been unable to trace them. It was supposed that the woman might have died from chloroform administered by the housebreakers; but, as the body exhibited no signs of the action of that drug, it seems more probable that she died from the effect of sudden terror.

One of the diminutive African savages, called *Bosjemans*, now exhibiting in the provinces, terrified the people assembled to see them in the Town Hall at Devizes on the 2nd of May, by a sudden outbreak of ferocity. Taking offence at some imaginary affront, he discharged an arrow at the head of the offender, which pierced his hat. He then sprang among the company with a terrific yell, and his companions were preparing to follow, when the keepers rushed forward and secured them, amid the screams of the women and a scene of general consternation. They had once before made a similar exhibition of fierceness.

Two Railway Accidents took place on the 6th. On the Durham branch of the York, Newcastle, and Ber-

wick Railway, the passenger-train ran into the luggage-train with a fearful crash, and every person in the train was more or less injured.—A labourer on the Midland Railway, at work near the Loughborough station, was knocked down by a train which came up before he could get out of its way, and so much hurt that he died in a few hours.

A Dreadful Loss of Life took place on Lake Erie on the 6th instant. The "Commerce" steamer, having on board a part of the 23rd Fusileers, on her way from Montreal to London, Canada West, was run into by the American steamer "Dispatch," and sunk. Assistant Surgeon Douglas Grantham, four non-commissioned officers, twenty privates, eight soldiers' wives, and four children, perished.

Mr. W. Johnstone, the scene-painter of the Haymarket Theatre, *Died Suddenly* on the 8th. He was walking home from the theatre after the first persormance of Mr. Jerrold's new play (the scenery of which was his last work) in company with Mr. Stirling Coyne, when, passing through Chandos-street, he fell in a fit, and almost immediately expired.

Captain Henry Whittingham was *Run Over by a Timber-Waggon* on the 20th, after having escaped the varied dangers of the deep for nearly half a century. He had been for many years in the service of the General Steam Navigation Company, and previously Commander of the Sir William Carter, a cutter, belonging to the late Mr. Rothschild, and used for the conveyance of specie to and from the continent. Captain Whittingham was passing Thornton-street, Bermondsey, when he fell under the hind-wheel of a heavily laden timber-waggon, and before the horses could be stopped, the wheel rested on his breast.

A fatal Experiment in Aerostation was made on Friday evening, the 24th. A monster balloon, fifty feet long, twenty-two in diameter, and capable of containing 15,000 cubic feet of gas, ascended from the Phœnix Gas-works, under the direction of Mr. Monro, the superintendent, and descended safely in the parish of High Laver, Essex; but a poor labourer, named Frederick Clark, while assisting to secure the balloon in its descent, was so dreadfully injured by the grapnel, that he died a few hours afterwards.

A Soldier was Rolled to Death on the 27th, at Portsmouth. A party belonging to the 28th Regt., while doing fatigue-duty on Southsea Common, were returning to quarters, drawing after them a very large iron roller, charged with iron shot, when, in descending the road to the centre of the glacis at a rapid pace to escape the rain which was falling, one of the men fell. In an instant, the ponderous machine passed over him, and his head and body were so fearfully crushed, that instantaneous death resulted.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

An improvement in the sanitary condition of the country is shown by the Quarterly Returns of the Registrar General, which appeared at the beginning of this month, in the several divisions and counties. They comprise the births and deaths in the winter quarter ending 31st March last; and the marriages in the autumn quarter, ending 31st Dec., 1849. The marriages have been progressively increasing in the years 1847, 1848, and 1849. In the autumn quarter of 1849 they were 43,632; higher than in any autumn quarter since 1845. In the whole year 1849 they were 141,599. During the same period, the number of deaths has declined. The deaths in the first quarter of 1850 were less, by 21,065, than in the first quarter of 1847, and less by 21,414 than in the first quarter of 1848. In 1849 the deaths were 98,607, the births were 144,602. The decrease in the number of deaths is ascribed to various causes; to the comparatively healthy weather during the months of January, February, and March, and to the abundance of food. The high prices of 1847, when wheat was 70s. a quarter, induced farmers to extend the breadth of land in culture in 1848, especially in Ireland. Indeed, all over Europe the breadth of land under potatoes, wheat, and other cereals, in that year, was sufficient to yield, on average crops, enough of food to supply the markets. The crops were generally above an average. Cholera was fatal only in a very few cases during the quarter. "The annual rate of mortality in the first quarters of the eleven years 1840-50, was 2.754 per cent. in the districts comprising the chief towns, and 2.222 per cent. in the districts of small towns and country parishes. In 1850 the mortality in the first class of districts fell to 2.401 per cent, and in the second class to 2.067 per cent. In the most favourable winter quarter which has been experienced since 1846, the mortality of the inhabitants of towns exceeds the mortality of the rest of the country by 16 per cent." These facts show how much remains to be done, to improve the health of towns. In regard to the increase of population in England, the return states that the 144,602 births in 1849 exceeded the 98,607 deaths, by 45,995. 46,423 emigrants left the ports of the United Kingdom, at which there are government emigration offices; of these, 40,927 left the English ports, but probably great numbers were of Irish extraction.

The *Utility of Ragged Schools* has been fully developed at their several anniversary festivals this month. The eighth annual meeting of the supporters of the Field Lane Ragged School took place on the 1st inst. The Report, read by the Secretary, stated that 320 children had been received into the school during the last twelve-months; that the girls were well instructed in knitting and needlework, and that the boys would shortly be able to furnish shoes to the school at the cost price of the material. A collection was made, which, with some donations, amounted to 40*l.*

The sixth annual meeting of the Ragged School Union was held in Exeter Hall on the 14th, Lord ASHLEY in the chair. The Committee's Report contained many facts illustrative of the good done by the establishment of Ragged Schools, the number of which throughout the country, as well as in the metropolis, is rapidly increasing. The number added to the list during the year is 14. The schools now consist of 94 in all. The number of voluntary teachers was 1350; the children, on week days, 5174; week evenings, 5093; Sunday evenings, 10,366. The number of paid teachers is now 156. The scholars in the industrial classes are now about 1200. The subscriptions, which last year were 338*l.*, now amount to 520*l.*; the donations, not including the fund raised for emigration, and a legacy of 1000*l.* left by the late James Grant, Esq., amount to 1,631*l.*

The annual meeting of the *Domestic Servants' Benevolent Institution* was held on the 1st. The report of the committee stated that there were upwards of 4000 subscribers belonging to the class of domestic servants, and that they possessed a permanent fund of 4200*l.* The total receipts of the last year were 1609*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*; the pensions 17*l.* 10*s.* The investments were, for 1258*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* at 3 per cent. consols, purchased in the year, 1180*l.*

At the annual meeting of the *Female Servants' Home Society*, on the 9th, it appeared that this society, since 1835, has given aid to 3800 servants. From the commencement of the registry system in 1844, 17,000 servants have placed their names on the books, and 5180 families have applied to be provided with domestics. During the past year 423 female servants have been received into the "Home," of whom 398 were provided with situations.

The thirty-fourth annual meeting in aid of the funds of the *Royal Infirmary for Children* was held on the 1st. This institution has relieved upwards of 170,000 children, and relieves, on an average, 400 every month. It is proposed to extend its utility by making it a hospital as well as a dispensary; and for this purpose 1077*l.* was subscribed in the course of the evening.

The *Artists' General Benevolent Institution* had its thirty-fifth annual Festival at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 11th, under the presidency of Sir Robert Peel. Lord Hardinge, Colonel Rowdon, Mr. Cockerell, Mr. Hardwicke, and other gentlemen, took part in the proceedings. During the dinner, 718*l.* was received, including 100*l.* from the Queen, 50*l.* from Sir R. Peel, 50*l.* from the British Institution, and 20*l.* from Lady Chantrey.

The great usefulness of the *Governesses' Benevolent Institution* was fully shown at the annual meeting on the 3rd. Since its establishment, 775 ladies have received temporary assistance, to the amount of 3980*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* During last year 942*l.* was expended in assisting 382 persons. During the same period eight annuitants have been added to the list, and there are now 45 ladies under the Society's care, including the occupants of the Asylum. "The Home" has, in the same year, received 212 contented and happy inmates, and may now, according to the report, be considered self-supporting, whilst the "free-registration," which occasions its apparent excess of expenditure, has proved of the utmost utility. In the past year 1506 have been registered, and of them 866 have been engaged, and this without expense either to the successful or unsuccessful candidates. The "Aged Asylum" is also reported to have answered its purpose well; and "the College" has, by the issue of its certificates, and the providing free evening classes, enabled the qualified governess to prove her value, and offered to many actually engaged in tuition the means of further gratuitous instruction.

A meeting, in aid of the building and permanent endowment of the *King's College Hospital*, was held in the hall of the College, Somerset House, on Wednesday the 15th, the Archbishop of Canterbury in the chair. Its object was to raise a fund for building and endowing a new hospital; the present, as was stated, having been barely sufficient in 1840, when there were only 4834 patients, and being now wholly inadequate when the number is 22,309. Among the speakers was Major Edwardes, who mentioned that he had in his youth attended the theological lectures in King's College, and strongly recommended religious and moral discipline. The gallant officer was loudly cheered. In the evening, the annual dinner, at which Major Edwardes was the Chairman, took place in the New Hall, Lincoln's Inn, and nearly 4000*l.* was subscribed to the fund.

There was a crowded meeting at the Whittington Club House, on the 13th, convened to support the *Metropolitan Interment Bill*. Lord R. Grosvenor was in the Chair. Mr. Mackinnon, M. P., moved the first resolution, "That in the opinion of this meeting the present system of burial in the metropolis is prejudicial to health, incompatible with decency and solemnity, demoralising in its tendency, and unnecessarily expensive," which was seconded by Lord Ebrington. The speakers were interrupted by clamour and hooting from a number of persons who were understood to belong to "the trade." When the resolution was about to be put, a Mr. Node got upon the platform, and declaring himself to be an undertaker, inveighed against the measure, which, he said, was a "dead set against their trade;" and another undertaker, Mr. Box, moved as an amendment, that the words "unnecessarily expensive" should be omitted. A number of hands were held up for this amendment, but the resolution was carried, amid great cheering, by an immense majority. Mr. George Cruikshank then rose to move the second resolution, but the opposing party raised a violent uproar. A rush was made at the platform; chairs and benches were broken; the room became a scene of confusion; and amid screams of women and calls for the police, the chairman found there was nothing for it but to *adjourn the meeting*.

The *Newsvendors' Benevolent Institution* held its eleventh annual meeting at Anderton's Hotel, on the 16th, J. Harmer, Esq., the President, in the chair. The report stated that the present position of the Society was satisfactory. In November last it had been decided to establish an annual festival. The first dinner was under the presidency of Mr. Charles Dickens, and the result had been very successful. The donations had exceeded 240*l.*, the bulk of which was contributed by parties not connected with the trade, and the list of subscribers had considerably increased. The committee had thus been enabled to invest 200*l.* in the Three per Cents., which raised the permanent fund to 1200*l.* Thanks were voted to Mr. Dickens for presiding at the annual dinner in November last, and for his efforts in favour of the Society.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

On Wednesday the 1st of May, at twenty minutes past eight in the morning the Queen gave *Birth to a Prince*. On the same day Prince Albert visited the Duke of Wellington to congratulate him on his eighty-first birthday, and stated from the Queen, that as a token of regard, she intended to have the royal infant baptised by the name of Arthur.—The foster-mother of the young Prince is Mrs. Jane Jones, a Welchwoman, the wife of an industrious workman on the Chester and Holyhead Railway.—Her Majesty's birthday was celebrated on Wednesday, the 15th, with every demonstration of affectionate loyalty both in the metropolis and the provinces.—On Tuesday morning, the 21st, the ceremony of churching the Queen was performed in the private chapel, Buckingham Palace, by the Hon. and Rev. Gerald Wellesley, Her Majesty's domestic chaplain.—Her Majesty and Prince Albert, with the royal children, left town on the 22nd for Osborne.

Lord Howden, it was announced in the Gazette of the 14th, has been appointed ambassador to Spain.

The Rev. Richard Dawes, M.A., has been nominated *Dean of Hereford*, in the room of the late Dr. John Merewether.—The Rev. Gilbert Elliot, M.A., has been nominated *Dean of Bristol*, in the room of the late Dr. John Lamb.

A banquet was given on the 22nd by the officers of the *Coldstream Guards* to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the enrolment of that distinguished corps by General Monk. Colonel Chaplin, the commanding officer of the regiment, was in the chair, supported by the Duke of Cambridge and the Duke of Wellington.—On the same day an entertainment was given to the non-commissioned officers and privates, in Portman-barracks. The Duke of Cambridge, colonel of the regiment, and all the officers were present. His Royal Highness took a seat among the privates, with whom he conversed with his wonted affability. The fare consisted of about 1400 lbs. of beef, with a liberal supply of pudding and beer. Later in the evening the men were permitted to admit their friends, and dancing and other amusements were kept up for some hours.

Lord John Russell on the 28th announced in the House of Commons the intention of *the Lord Chancellor to Resign his Office*, and that it is intended to put the Great Seal for a time into Commission. Lord Brougham alluded to these reports in the House of Lords on the 27th, denying at the same time the assertion which had been made, that there was a great accumulation of arrears in the Court of Chancery, and the appeal business of the House of Lords.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

James Thom, the self-taught sculptor, author of "Tam O'Shanter and Souter Johnnie," died at New York on the 17th April, of consumption, in his 51st year.

The Right Hon. and Right Rev. Lord Robert Ponsonby Tottenham, Bishop of Clogher, only brother of the Marquis of Ely, died at Woodstock, County of Wicklow, on the 26th April, in his 70th year.

M. de Blainville, the successor of Cuvier in the chair of Comparative Anatomy in the Musée of Natural History at Paris, was found dead on the 1st inst. in one of the carriages of the night train on the Rouen Railway, while on his way to England. He was in his 72nd year.

M. Gay Lussac, the celebrated chemical philosopher and peer of France, died at Paris on the 2nd, at the age of 71.

Lord William Harvey, second son of the Marquis of Bristol, and formerly Secretary to the British Embassy in Paris, died at Torquay on the 6th.

Lady Isabella Anne Brydges, eldest daughter of the first Marquis of Waterford, and widow of the late Sir W. H. Bridges, died at Avisford, Sussex, on the 7th, aged 73.

Princess Juliane Sophie, a sister of the late King of Prussia, and widow of the late Prince Frederick William of Hesse-Philipstahl, died at Berlin on the 9th, in her 62nd year.

Mrs. Charlotte Wilkes, widow of the late Lord Jeffrey, died on the 18th, at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. Empson, at Haileybury College.

Miss Jane Porter, the celebrated novelist, died at the house of her brother, Dr. Porter, of Bristol, on the 23rd. She was in her 74th year, and preserved to the last her vigour of intellect and cheerfulness of temper.

Mrs. Labouchere, wife of the Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, President of the Board of Trade, died suddenly on the 25th. Premature labour is said to have been the cause of her death.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE north-west frontier of India is still disturbed, nor is it likely that even an attempt will be made to reduce the insurgents during the present season. The passes between Kohat and Peshawur continue closed, and the last mail brings mention of another British officer and his servants assassinated by the Affreedees. A singular origin is now stated for the sudden rising of this wild tribe, who occupy, as the reader may discover who glances at the map, one of the most inaccessible and inhospitable heights in the whole mountain range of Asia. They are said to have been made rebels by the very species of tax (upon salt) which maddened the French peasantry some eighty years ago, and drew forth from the far-sighted father of Mirabeau the prophecy of the "general overturn." It will be best to satisfy justice in this matter, if injustice has been done, and not to content ourselves with simply putting forth the strong arm of retribution and revenge. The vicinity of Affghan may well remind us of what, some ten years ago, seemed but a silly local riot, and subsequently shook our Indian Empire. The news, commercial and political, from other quarters, is to be accounted favourable; notwithstanding a slight reverse to our arms in helping one of the friendly native princes, and the entire failure, for the present, of the enterprise of introducing railway communication into Bengal.

Our North American Colonies are quiet and tolerably prosperous; and the newspaper started six months ago in Upper Canada, to keep together and extend the annexation party, is become extinct. The active bishop of that province, we may add, is now in London; with the reported design of obtaining funds for the establishment of an Episcopal University at Toronto, on the plea that the late government interference, by which what is called the provincial university was thrown open to the various sects in the province requiring education, has left the Church without a field of educational exertion wherein it may be dominant and exclusive. These proceedings should be watched. There is no reasonable ground for another university endowment in Upper Canada.

A fourth detachment of sixty female emigrants sailed on Monday for Australia, equipped from the funds raised by Mr. Sidney Herbert; and the latest intelligence from these colonies is so generally satisfactory as to call for no remark. Frost has received a conditional pardon in Van Diemen's Land; Meagher of the Sword is become an active and successful cultivator of the soil; O'Donohue has started a newspaper; and Smith O'Brien continues to sulk. Let us merely add, for the hopeful future that seems to shape itself from such announcements, that the average annual emigration of the last three years has been lately ascertained to be not very far short of the whole annual increase of the population of the United Kingdom; the excess from Ireland being sufficiently great to leave England and Scotland with their usual proportions tolerably undisturbed. The most gratifying circumstance apparent in these three-years' returns is the steadiness which marks their gradual increase, and which would seem to imply at least a fair result to the adventurous enterprise of the earlier exiles.

The last *Overland Mail* brought dates from Bombay to April 17, from Calcutta to April 6, and from Hong Kong to March 29.

No further military operations have taken place against those daring freebooters the *Affreedees*. But fresh outrages have been committed by them. On the 20th of March, Dr. Healey, attached to the 1st Punjaub Cavalry, when on his way to Kohat with a small escort, was attacked near that place; two of his attendants were killed on the spot, and himself so wounded that he died immediately after reaching Kohat.

A singular circumstance took place at Wuzeerabad on the 13th of March. The Commander-in-Chief, at the end of a review of the troops there, detained one regiment—the 34th Native Infantry—on the ground, and, addressing the corps through an interpreter, told them he had received an anonymous petition complaining of *oppression by the commanding officer*, and desired those who had complaints to come forward and state them. A number of the men did so; and then Sir C. Napier, addressing the commanding officer, said that he had nothing left but to order a court of inquiry into the charges. A court of inquiry, accordingly, was sitting at the date of the account.—Another characteristic trait of the Commander-in Chief is related. In confirming the sentence of a court-martial held on a field-officer, who had entered into a correspondence concerning an order issued by a superior authority, instead of at once obeying it, Sir Charles remarked, "those who imagine this army is a debating society will find themselves very much mistaken."

The last *West India* mail brought dates from Jamaica to the 1st inst., Trinidad 20th, and Demerara 18th April. There is no remarkable intelligence. In Jamaica affairs were improving; owing to an increased demand for coffee, several estates that had fallen out of cultivation were to be re-worked. An important improvement in the manufacture of sugar had been discovered. Crops were very promising; that of sugar was estimated at 40,000 hhds. At Bermuda the potato disease had made its appearance. A number of fires had taken place at Barbados.

There are *Accounts from Sydney* to the end of January.—The Colonial revenue was in a satisfactory state, the increase in the quarter, as compared with the corresponding period last year, being above 20 per cent. Such was the abundance of the last harvest that wheat was selling at 2*s*. 6*d*. to 3*s*. a bushel. The out-turn of wool also promised favourably. A new seam of coal had been discovered, and a further reduction in the price of coal was expected. Accounts had been received of the complete destruction of the settlement of New Caledonia, and there was reason to fear that many lives had fallen victims to the ferocity of the natives. An English vessel, which arrived there in December, had found the place deserted, and the buildings destroyed by fire. A letter was found, enclosed in a bottle, from the overseer of the settlement, Mr. David Miller, stating that he had been attacked by about 2000 natives, and though he had killed numbers of them, they continued at him day and night; and as his ammunition was getting short, and all the surrounding hills were covered with natives, and also as two of his men were badly wounded, he thought it advisable to take to his boats and proceed to windward, to a place called Balletto. Nothing further had been learned of their fate.

Advices have also been received from *New Zealand*, *Van Diemen's Land*, *Western Australia*, *Port Philip*, and *South Australia*. They are of a favourable complexion, but contain nothing of special interest. The

only remarkable circumstance is the death of Rasserauha, the famous New Zealand Chief, at the age of nearly eighty. He had a regular Christian burial, in the European manner, and conducted with the utmost decorum. The service was read by Mr. Ronaldson, a missionary teacher; and the large assemblage were hospitably entertained by Tamahana, the son and heir of the deceased.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

The first preliminary meeting of intending *Emigrants upon Mrs. Chisholm's Plan* took place on the 4th, for the purpose of the various families being formed in groups. Upwards of two hundred persons were present; and Mr. Sidney Herbert and other gentlemen explained to the emigrants the nature of the plan and measures to be adopted. Two thousand pounds have already been subscribed by the working classes, and there have been donations from Mr. Sidney Herbert of 200*l.*, Lady Pembroke of 25*l.*, and Mr. Scott Russell of 5*l.* The first ship upon this plan is expected to sail next month.

There was another *Embarcation of Female Emigrants* on the 16th, consisting of the fourth detachment of young women sent out under the auspices of the Female Emigration Society, on board the William Stevenson, at Gravesend, their destination being Sidney and Adelaide. They were sixty in number, and their appearance, dress, and modest demeanour were very prepossessing; many of them were Irish. Besides these girls, there were two young ladies of excellent connexions, desirous of going to Australia, who had placed themselves under the protection of the Society for the voyage, paying their own passage. Mr. Sidney Herbert gave each girl a printed paper, conveying Mrs. Herbert's anxious wishes for their welfare, giving them some kind advice, and intimating that any of them, by remitting 6*l.* 10*s.*, will be entitled to name a female relative or friend for a passage, provided she be a fit person, and has a prospect of a place on her arrival

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

ENGLAND has been unexpectedly dragged into a quasi collision with her most powerful neighbour, by the sudden recal of the French ambassador on the alleged ground of a want of proper consideration for French dignity and good offices in the affair with Greece. Pending the mediation at Athens, a friendly arrangement had been completed in London; but, before it reached the mediating parties, Mr. Wyse, acting on previous instructions, and considering that Baron Gros had thrown up his office of mediator, resumed a hostile attitude, and compelled King Otho's submission to the terms first demanded. The dispute between England and France turns wholly upon two questions: what Mr. Wyse's original instructions, communicated also to the French mediator, actually were; and in what specific terms Mr. Wyse received notice from Baron Gros of the supposed failure of his mission. Only the explanation of Mr. Wyse himself can finally settle these points; but there is not now much doubt that the settlement will be amicable, and the ultimate issue favourable to the wishes of those who see in the concord of France and England the only guarantee possible (however feeble it may hitherto have proved) against the unchecked predominance of despotism abroad. Meanwhile the explosion of Greek fire at Paris has proved a temporary diversion for our lively neighbours from dangers which threaten them more nearly in their electoral affairs. Momentarily stunned at the election of the Socialist candidate by a majority over his competitor of more than eight thousand votes, the party of "order" have been since engaged in a struggle for existence, the desperation of which is implied in their proposed immediate disfranchisement of large masses of the artisan-class by a law they have presented to the Assembly. This law has had the unhappy effect of temporarily ranging such men as Cavaignac and Lamartine on the side of what is called the Mountain, and it is impossible to foresee the issue. All the fiercest passions of France are flung into the debate, and the tribune has not witnessed such agitation since the momentous days of February.

German politics continue to be the profoundest of mysteries; another Congress of princes, and another conference of plenipotentiaries, having appeared and vanished, and left the horizon darker than ever. Meanwhile a desperate fanatic has done his best to deepen the gloom by attempted assassination of the only German prince in whom sensible men place hope for the future. The ray of present comfort in the lamentable prospect of affairs seems to us to come from the direction of Austria. Bound almost helplessly to Russia in her military and material interests, that misgoverned empire is now in gradual progress of surrender, morally and intellectually, into the hands of her own Roman Catholic clergy; and in proportion as she thus loses liberty of action and thought, her baneful influence against federative freedom must gradually be neutralised and destroyed.

The French have departed from Rome, but arrests continue, spies increase, and the opposition of the Romans grows more and more marked and significant. Signor Mazzini has arrived in England. From Spain we have intelligence of overtures which have ended in the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with the English Court; and we receive frequent descriptions of court incidents which resemble rather the intrigues of the middle ages than events of modern civilisation. The Emperor of China, Toa-Kouang, has departed this life; "mounting upwards on the dragon," in the language of the Chinese court-newsman, "to be a guest on high;" and his son and successor, Yih-Chu, who proclaims through the same authority that his tears are of blood, and that he beats his breast and tears the ground in the fury of his grief, has very quietly mounted the throne.

The month's mails from America have brought generally good tidings. Sir Henry Bulwer's mission has been perfectly successful in removing that incipient rivalry of interests to which the representatives of both countries had somewhat indirectly committed themselves in Central America; and, as one of many indications of the better understanding growing up between ourselves and our republican cousins in mercantile policy, we have to record a proposal of the British minister for the opening of the navigation of the St. Lawrence to American merchant vessels, in exchange for the admission of Canadian produce to the United States on a footing of complete reciprocity, which is understood to have met with a favourable reception from the ministry of General Taylor. The home politics of America are at present in renewed agitation from what is called the Slavery Compromise, Mr. Webster's assent to it having alienated many of his supporters, and the Anti-Slavery party generally denouncing it as a treason to the non-slave-holding

States. The free men of Boston do not like the idea of being compelled to surrender any slave who may hereafter take refuge in their territory, which, by one of the clauses of Mr. Clay's proposal, giving practical effect to what has heretofore been an inoperative law, they will be now compelled to do.

The contest for the *Representation of Paris* terminated in the triumph of the Socialist and Democratic party. On the 2nd, the Prefect of the Seine publicly declared the result, which was: for M. Eugene Sue, the celebrated *litterateur*, who was the Socialist candidate, 127,812 votes; for M. Leclerc, the candidate of the Moderate party, 119,726. The votes of the army were: for Sue, 6674; for Leclerc, 6598. The funds fell 2 per cent. immediately afterwards, but partially recovered when the first rumours of a change of ministry subsided. This result led to a measure of the government for modifying the electoral suffrage. On the 1st, the Minister of the Interior brought in a bill, making a residence of three years (instead of six months), proved by the payment of taxes, a necessary qualification; declaring that one-fourth of the whole electors in a department (instead of one-eighth) shall be necessary to make an election valid; that the period for filling up vacancies shall be six months, instead of forty days; and that the votes of the army shall be confounded with those of the other classes so as to render distinction impossible. A vote of "urgency" having been moved, the "Mountain" opposed it, but it was carried by 453 to 197; Generals Cavaignac and Lamoriciere voting against the Government. M. Leon Faucher was appointed Reporter of the bill, and some clauses of it were modified; in particular the condition of being domiciled for three years in the same commune was departed from, it being declared sufficient if the elector has inhabited the same canton for that period even under different masters. Petitions against the bill, at the offices of the different opposition journals, have been signed by many thousand persons. The Mayor of one of the arrondissements, and all the officers of the National Guards who signed these petitions, have been dismissed.

The government has adopted *Stringent Measures Against the Opposition Press*. On the 14th, M. Boulé, the great printer of the Rue de Coq-Heron, was deprived of his license as a printer. He was the printer of the "Voix du Peuple," the "République," the "Estafette," and several other papers. The authorities seized all the presses, and placed seals on them. In consequence of this step, the Editors issued a joint letter explaining how their papers were prevented from appearing. The editor of the "Voix du Peuple" was brought again before the tribunals on the same day for attacks on the government. In the one case the sentence previously pronounced against him of a year's imprisonment and a fine of 4000f. for an attack on M. Fould's budget was confirmed, and for the other he was sentenced to a year's imprisonment and a fine of 5000f. Courtois and the Abbé Chatel have been convicted by juries, of inflammatory speeches at electoral meetings. The former was condemned to a year's imprisonment and 1000f. fine, and two years' more imprisonment if the fine be not paid. The Abbé Chatel has a year's imprisonment and 500f. fine. It seems rather surprising that the government should obtain verdicts against the Socialists, considering how Socialism has spread in Paris.

The French Ambassador having been Recalled from St. James's, General la Hitte, the Minister of War, read to the National Assembly on the 16th, a letter he had written to the French Ambassador at London, in consequence of infraction, by England, of the conditions on which France had agreed to act as mediator in the affairs of Greece. The letter, after a summary of the circumstances of the misunderstanding, and the demand that it should be set to rights, proceeded to say: "This demand not having been listened to, it has appeared to us that the prolongation of your sojourn at London is not compatible with the dignity of the Republic. The President has ordered me to invite you to return to France, after having accredited M. Marescalchi in quality of Chargé d'Affaires," and concludes, "You will have the goodness to read this present despatch to Lord Palmerston." This announcement was received by the Right with loud acclamations, the Left, or Mountain party, remaining silent.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simonet, of the 11th Light Infantry, who was severely wounded by the *Falling of the Suspension-bridge at Angers*, has been promoted to the rank of Colonel, and appointed to the command of Brest. An investigation into the circumstances of that catastrophe is going on, and it has been ascertained that the fall of the bridge took place from the iron suspension cables having become rusted. The 11th regiment is to proceed to Algeria so soon as the loss of men in the 3rd battalion is made up.

The debate on the clauses of the Electoral Bill has commenced in the Assembly.

The *Erfurt Parliament*, having finished the revisal of its proposed Constitution for the German Union, dissolved itself, and has been succeeded by two separate Convocations. The one is held at Frankfort, and consists of the representatives of the old Germanic confederation, convoked by the Emperor of Austria, with the object of re-organising that confederation. This conference includes all the secondary States of the old confederation except Oldenburg and Frankfort itself, though the assembly is held within its own walls. The other, held at Berlin, was assembled by the king of Prussia, and consisted of twenty-one heads of sovereign houses, with representatives of the three Hanse towns, Hamburg, Bremen, and Lubeck. This last convention has finished its sittings, and the members, previous to separating, were entertained by the king at a banquet on the 16th, when his majesty addressed them in a speech expressive of his satisfaction with their proceedings.

On the 22nd *An Attempt was Made on the Life* of the King of Prussia, by a serjeant of artillery named Sesseloge, who fired a pistol at him as he was setting out for Potsdam, and wounded him slightly in the arm. The assassin was immediately apprehended.

The only political news from *Spain* during the month, related to some palace intrigues, in which the Queen, King-Consort, and General Narvaez were concerned. One evening in the last week of April the King suddenly notified to General Narvaez and the rest of the cabinet his intention of quitting Madrid in order not to be present at the accouchement of the Queen. After exhausting all means of persuasion to induce him to change his purpose, but which were of no avail, a council of ministers was held, in which it was decided to oppose by force the King's departure. His Majesty was placed under arrest. Sentries were stationed at the door of his apartment, and the King remained a prisoner during four hours, at the end of which time his Majesty capitulated, and even consented to accompany the Queen in an open carriage in her usual evening drive on the Prado.

After a *Drought of Five Years*, the province of Murcia has been visited by a copious rain. It was curious to observe the young children who had never seen rain in their lives, evince as much alarm as if some frightful accident had happened. Rain also has fallen in the vast "Huerta," or garden-land of Valencia: the simple inhabitants of the villages, in the height of their joy, have carried their tutelary saints about the streets with bands of rustic music.

At about a league from Saragossa *a Powder-mill exploded* and many lives were lost. Parts of human bodies, remnants of clothing, and the remains of beasts of burden, were found scattered in every direction. The edifice was shattered to pieces.

Since the Pope has established himself in *Rome*, that capital has been very quiet. The French commandant, General Baraguay d'Hilliers, has returned to Paris, but the French troops remain.

The adjustment, at *Athens*, of the dispute with the Greek Government, mentioned in our last number, having failed of success, the negotiation was broken off

on the 21st ult.. and, by the direction of Mr. Wyse, the blockade of the Piræus was renewed. The treaty was then resumed, and the Greek government having conceded terms with which our minister was satisfied, a convention was entered into, and Admiral Parker raised the blockade. Since then the relations between the British minister and the Greek government have been friendly. The Greek vessels damaged during their detention were repaired by order of Admiral Parker, and subscriptions were made among the officers of the English fleet, to supply the necessities of some of the masters and crews. On the 4th, Mr. Wyse had an audience of the king and queen, to announce the death of the queen dowager of England, and was treated with marked courtesy.

On the 25th of February, *The Emperor of China died*, having survived the Empress Dowager (whose death took place on the 23rd of January) only thirty-three days. He is succeeded by his eldest surviving son, a youth of nineteen, who will bear the title of Sze-hing. The Emperor's death is said to have been hastened by a fright he received in a conflagration within his palace.

The intelligence from *New York* comes down to the 17th inst. The public mind in the United States continues to be agitated by the slavery question, in connexion with the admission of California, New Mexico, and Texas, into the Union. A debate on this subject, in the Senate, on the 17th April, produced a *Disgraceful Fracas* between two of the leading members. In the heat of a violent altercation, General Foote drew a pistol from his pocket, cocked it, and coolly presented it at his opponent Colonel Benton. Several members instantly rushed upon him and disarmed him, just in time, it would appear, to prevent a fatal catastrophe. An investigation was to take place into this scandalous affair.—The discussion of the question in the Senate ended in the appointment of a "Compromise Committee," consisting of seven members from slave-holding and six from non-slave-holding States; and this Committee has agreed to a report, prepared by Mr. Clay, which recommends, in substance, the admission of California and New Mexico, without any reference to slavery whatever, and recognising the right of Texas to be divided into four additional states, with or without slavery, as the people within them, whenever there is a sufficient population, may desire.

The wife of Professor Webster, now lying under sentence of execution for the *Murder of Dr. Parkman*, has made a strong appeal for mercy for her husband to the governor of Massachusetts. Her appeal is seconded by a considerable portion of the American press, who still doubt the guilt of the professor. His counsel have also taken out a writ of error, on the ground of some irregularity in the proceedings.

At Lowell, the American Manchester, *Several Cotton-Mills had Stopped*, whereby 3500 persons had been thrown out of employment. This is accounted for by the great increase of manufacture in the Southern States, which, annoyed at the northern attacks on their favourite institution of slavery, have resolved to manufacture as much as possible for themselves. In only four of the States—South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee—there are at present 150 cotton-mills. A competition against the manufactures of New England is also begun in the West—in Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

OUR glance at the leading publications of the present month comprises few save books of travel and compilation; but we have to record another step in advance on a subject of infinite importance to Education and Literature. Lord John Russell has officially conveyed to the governing bodies of both Universities his views and intentions in advising a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the state and revenues of Oxford and Cambridge. He desires to facilitate the reforms of study already begun at both places in the direction of general knowledge, the growth of modern literature, and the discoveries of physical and chemical science, by removing such local restrictions or obsolete endowments as are at present the bar to a proper extension of such reforms. He adduces, for example, the limitations of fellowship to particular schools and families; and with equal truth he might have instanced the diversion of large properties from purposes of education to uses which are become a mere abuse of the original endowments, and are often marked by the most flagrant departure from the founder's statutes, and the oaths sworn to support them. These are nevertheless the "higher purposes" than education which the Oxford authorities venture to plead in favour of the existing system; and use to support that denunciation of the injustice of meddling with trusts, and vested rights, and the interests of charity, of which their remonstrance is principally composed. But they do not explain why, as a part of the same argument, prayers do not continue to be publicly said, and the Bible to be read during dinner hours, in certain of the colleges; nor why non-residence is permitted and practised; nor why prescribed costumes have been laid aside; nor why particular masters have relieved themselves from celibacy; nor why (above all) masses are no longer performed for the souls of pious founders. The truth is, that all men now perceive the argument of vested rights to be wholly untenable. Of the eighteen colleges and five halls which constitute the University of Oxford, the whole of the latter and twelve of the former were founded before the Reformation; two colleges were established by the dominant Roman Catholics in Mary's reign; and only four are Protestant foundations. All the houses existing at the establishment of Protestantism in England, became, by the same power which before the Reformation had been used in the founding of Christ Church by Wolsey and his master, trusts for educational purposes; and the present design is to establish and extend their efficiency in this particular. Nor will its success be merely a boon to the highest interests of education. It will yet more explicitly serve the cause of truth and morality, in removing the scandal of oaths which are now daily sworn, to be daily violated, by clergymen and instructors of youth. When Mr. Ward was expelled some years ago for his disingenuous subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles, he protested against his condemnation by men who were in the habit of subscribing their statutes in a ten-fold *more* "non-natural" sense than that of his own subscription to the Articles. This home-thrust escaped the public reporters at the time, but has since been remembered and put in evidence by a distinguished Oxford scholar.

The books of highest pretension issued during the month are a Selection of *Modern State Trials* by the late Recorder of Macclesfield, and a republication of *Essays from the Edinburgh Review* by Mr. Henry Rogers. We find it difficult to understand the title of the former book, seeing that it only comprises five state trials, properly so called; being those of Frost, Oxford, and Smith, O'Brien for high treason, of Daniel O'Connell and others

for conspiracy, and of the Mayor of Bristol for neglect of duty during the Reform Riots: and is otherwise composed of the trials of Mr. Stuart and Lord Cardigan for duelling, of those of Courvoisier, M'Naughten, and the Glasgow cotton-spinners, for murder; of the titular Earl of Stirling for forgery, of Lord Cochrane and the Wakefields for conspiracy, and of Mr. Ambrose Williams and Mr. Moxon for libel and alleged blasphemous publication. Mr. Townsend's professed object in the compilation (which fills two large octavo volumes) was to make it useful as well as entertaining, by popularising the respective subjects of inquiry in essays prefixed to each case; by directing attention, in notes and otherwise, to the principal points of jurisprudence and legal morality, discussed or decided; and by exhibiting, in the body of the reports themselves, the salient parts of cross-examination, the little passages of arms between the forensic combatants, and as it were the poetry of action in these legal dramas. Sometimes this is done fairly enough; but Mr. Townsend's selection of subjects is not always to be approved.

Mr. Rogers, an Edinburgh reviewer whose name has not been much before the public, has dealt chiefly with subjects of religious interest, or indirectly bearing upon religious philosophy. He occupies about the same relation to Sir James Stephen in these matters, as one might say that Arnold occupied to Bunsen and Niebuhr, or Hare and Maurice to Coleridge. He is less wide and comprehensive in his range, in expression less eloquent and original, but more practical in his views. He attacks the two extremes of Tractarianism and Scepticism; gives large and sound expositions of Dr. Whately's views of criminal jurisprudence; and attempts special biographical sketches, such as Fuller's, Luther's, Pascal's, and Plato's.

The reader who happens to encounter another and very different exposition of religious thinking, which it also falls within our present duty to indicate, but not to criticise, Mr. Newman's *Phases of Faith*, will do well to read it after a careful study of the essay on the claims and conflicts of reason and faith which is contained in one of Mr. Rogers's volumes. Mr. Newman appears to have begun life with a strong evangelical turn, to have betaken himself to the East in a mission to convert the Mahommedans, subsequently to have joined the Unitarians, and, finally, to have deposited himself in a sort of worship beginning and ending in the nature and will of man himself, without relation or submission to external and objective laws.

But the chief staple of the month's literary productions has been in the department of Voyages and Travels; and an indication of the routes taken or the subjects described, will suffice for information respecting them. Colonel Chesney has sent forth, in a very big book, the first portion of his narrative of the Government *Expedition to the Euphrates;* and a certain Count Sollogub has recorded his travelling impressions of Young Russia, in a lively little book called *The Tarantas*. An English artist, lately resident in America, has described his *Adventures in California;* a native American, named Baird Taylor, has given a description of the same region, and adventures in other directions of conquered Mexico, with the tempting title of *El Dorado;* the distinguished American poet, Mr. Cullen Bryant, has collected notes of things, made on journeys in different countries on both sides of the Atlantic, during the last sixteen years, in *Letters of a Traveller;* and Mr. Robert Baird, a Scotch invalid travelling for health, with strong party prepossessions, but shrewd observant habits, has published two volumes on the *West Indies and North America in* 1849. We have also had pictures of travel in the Canadas, in a book called the *Shoe and Canoe*, by the Secretary to the Boundary Commissioners, Dr. Bigsby; a very curious and complete revelation of Eastern life, in a *Two Years' Residence in a Levantine Family*, described by Mr. Bayle St. John; a peep into *Nuremberg and Franconia*, by Mr. Whitling; a summer ramble through *Auvergne and Piedmont*, by the intelligent Secretary of the Royal Society, Mr. Weld; the record of a brief holiday in Spain, *Gazpacho*, by a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; *Notes from Nineveh*, by a clergyman who has lately had religious duties in the East; and a satisfactory and compendious compilation called *Nineveh and Persepolis*, by one of the officials of the British Museum.

The *Exhibition* of the *Royal Academy* and that of the *Society of Water Colours* were opened to the public at the beginning of this month. They are both rich in works of merit, by the artists already known as the leading contributors to each of them, and by younger artists whose productions are beginning to attract public attention. In the exhibition of the Royal Academy there are 643 pictures, of which 86 are by Academicians, and 51 by Associates; 460 Drawings and Miniatures, of which 20 are by Academicians, and 17 by Associates; 189 Architectural pieces, none of which are by Academicians or Associates; and 164 pieces of Sculpture, of which 12 are by Academicians, and 2 by Associates.

The different Exhibitions at present open afford a remarkable proof of the industry of British artists. The Exhibition of the Royal Academy contains 1456 works of art, and above 1000 offered for exhibition were declined. At the Water-Colour Gallery 380 works are exhibited; at the New Water-Colour Gallery, 329; at the British Institution, 500; at the Suffolk-street Gallery, 735; and at the Portland Gallery in Regent Street, 373. Adding to these the number that may be set down as declined by these different exhibitions, we may estimate the number of works of art produced for exhibition during the year at not less than 5000; and this without taking into account the immense amount of portrait-painting, book illustration, and works produced in other branches of the art.

Philharmonic Concerts took place on the 6th and 20th. At the latter, Lindley, who for nearly half a century has maintained his position as the first English violoncellist, bade farewell to the public. He played in his old favourite Trio of Corelli, and retired amid the acclamations of the audience.

At *Her Majesty's Theatre*, several performers, new to this country, have lately appeared. Mademoiselle Ida Bertrand, a contralto, made her first appearance on the 27th of April, as the boy Pierotto, in "Linda de Chamouni." Madame Frezzolini, who has revisited England after an absence of seven years, appeared on the 21st, as "Lucrezia Borgia," with the most decided success.

At the *Royal Italian Opera*, an Opera entitled *Zora*, being Rossini's "Mosè in Egitto," with the subject and characters changed, has been produced, but with little success, though it was splendidly "mounted" and skilfully performed.—*Roberto il Diavolo* was produced on the 23rd, the part of Alice being taken, for the first time, by Grisi.

At the *Haymarket*, Mr. Douglas Jerrold's new Comedy, *The Catspaw*, was performed for the first time on the 9th inst. with triumphant success, and has been nightly repeated ever since.

The other novelties at the English theatres have been a Comic drama at the Adelphi called the White Serjeants, and a Farce at the Strand, entitled Not to be Done, both of which have been successful.—Several holiday pieces, of the usual kind on such occasions, were produced on Whit-Monday; among others, the *Lyceum* brought out "Novelty Fair, or Hints for 1851;" and the *Strand*, a "Morality" called "The Philosopher's Stone," founded on the Californian mania.

Drury Lane closed prematurely on the 4th instant. Mr. Anderson, the lessee, in a valedictory address, ascribed his "partial failure" to "the great difficulty of converting this theatre into a temple of the legitimate drama, after the various uses to which it has been devoted; the opposition he has encountered in the shape of three foreign theatres; and the positive coolness of the public press, without one cheering word of encouragement." He announced, however, that he is to re-open the theatre at Christmas next.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS

From the Gazette of April 26. WILLIAM CHITTENDEN, Church-st., Paddington, draper.—CHARLES VENEER, Tunbridge-wells, builder.—JOHN PALLENSON, Liverpool, grocer —JOHN STANFORD and HENRY BANNISTER, Hasleowen, brickmakers.—ALEX SPEERS CORRICK, Bristol, timber dealer.—JOHN POWELL CLIROW, Radnorshire, cattle dealer.

April 30. WILLIAM GEORGE CEELY, Poplar, carman.—JAMES BRIGHTON, Gray's-inn-road, victualler. — THOMAS COLLINGWOOD, Nuneham, Oxfordshire, innkeeper.—ANTHONY EDWARD CORVAN, Hampstead-road, baker.—JAMES GUEST, Birmingham, commission agent.—JOHN BROWN, Bristol, builder. — JAMES VILLAR, Cheltenham, maltster.—CHARLES PEARSON, Sheffield, victualler.—CONRAD GREENHOW, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, timber merchant.

May 3. CHARLES PENFOLD, Arundel, ironmonger.—FREDERICK TAPLEY, Sidmouth, linen draper. — RICHARD HEATH, Limehouse, brassfounder. — GEORGE GEARY MASON, Underhill, Lancashire, cotton spinner.—GEORGE AUGUSTUS MUNRO, Liverpool, merchant.—JOEL WILSON, West Bromwich, iron manufacturer.—GEORGE PAGE, Wolverhampton, coal dealer.—JOSEPH CHILTON, Bath, apothecary.—RICHARD KEITLEY, Cheltenham, builder.—GEORGE WILSON, Wakefield, draper.—NOAH GEORGE BOND, Huddersfield, bookseller.—EDWARD WRAY, Hull, draper. —JOHN HOLLINGWORTH, Hull, shipowner. — JAMES PENNOCK, York, farrier.

May 7. JOHN BURGESS NUNN, Colchester, tailor.—GEORGE WOOLLAND TUCKER, Tottenham-court-road, furrier.—SAMUEL MEANLEY, Walsall, butcher.—GASKELL JOHNSON, Liverpool, coal merchant.—FREDERICK DUNCAN, Liverpool, merchant. — THOMAS SAMUEL BROWNE, Manchester, patent agent.

May 10. RICHARD DART and JOSEPH BROWN, Bedford-st.,Covt.-garden —EDWARD PARRATT, Park-village, West, Regent's-pk., advertising agent.—JOHN THOMAS HOLLAND, Coventry, builder. —WILLIAM HAYHURST, Liverpool, coach proprietor.—MARGARET MILNE, Manchester, grocer. — BUCKLEY ROYLE, Manchester, check manufacturer.—RICHARD WILSON, Hull, stone-mason.

May 14 GEORGE HEALEY WARD and BAILEY GRIFFITH, Bear-alley, Farringdon-st., printers.—WILLIAM FARR, Broadway, Blackfriars, beershop keeper.—THOMAS SMEETON, Ipswich, tailor.—GEORGE COOPER, Northampton, linen draper.—EDWIN JACKSON GILL, Gloucester, auctioneer. — AGNES ASHCROFT, Liverpool, shipowner.—WILLIAM BREAD, Amersham, dealer in sheep.—WILLIAM HENRY ETHELL, Birmingham, sadler.—JOHN LAWRENCE and HENRY DIXON, Birmingham, military ornament manufacturers.– JOHN RYDER, Liverpool, victualler. — WILLIAM and JOHN PILE, Monkwearmouth, ship builders.

May 17. HENRY SCHOLEFIELD, Clare, Suffolk, chemist.—JOHN WINN, Charlotte-st., Blackfriars road, gas fitter.—THEODORE DE RUMIGNY, St. Mildred's-ct., merchant.—JOHN MOODY, Aldersgate-st., stock manufacturer.—CLAXON SCARFE, Hall-st., City-road, timber merchant. — JAMES WOODS, Conduit-st., tailor.—WILLIAM WALFORD, Wolverhampton, brewer.—GEORGE BAILEY, Coventry, riband manufacturer. — JAMES WEBSTER, Leicester, engineer.—JOHN HILL, Jun., Malmsbury, innkeeper. —THOMAS COWGILL, Bradford, Yorkshire, grocer.—WILLIAM PASSMORE, Leeds, tailor.—JAMES MELLOR, Manchester, haberdasher. — JOHN HAWLEY, Liverpool, confectioner. — JAMES HARRY, Liverpool, wine merchant.—GEORGE CHARNOCK, West Derby, Lancashire, baker.

May 21. ALFRED ALLEN SUTTEBY, Stoke-ferry, Norfolk, grocer.—JOHN TAYLOR, High-st., Shadwell, cheesemonger. — JAMES URRY, Landport, Hampshire, brewer.—EDWARD DURRANT BUSHER, Piccadilly, coachmaker.— JAMES WOOLNOUGH, (otherwise JAMES LEMAN WOOLNOUGH), Chediston, Suffolk, cattle dealer.—GEORGE BURNETT ABSALOM, Portsmouth, coal-merchant.—WILLIAM MAILES, Woolhope, Hereford, bark-merchant.—THOMAS BAILEY, Gloucester, sadler.— THOMAS HARFOOT, Plymouth, tailor.

May 24. WALTER BATES, South Shields, builder.—WILLIAM CARMALT, Romsey, Hampshire, baker.—WILLIAM EALEY, Horsepath, Oxfordshire, butcher.—WILLIAM HAGUE, Manchester, small-ware dealer.—WILLIAM MEADOWCROFT, Rochdale, Lancashire, cotton-spinner.—EDWARD PARKES, Canterbury, shoe-manufacturer.—WILLIAM THRELFALL, Addingham, Yorkshire, cotton-spinner.—JOHN TOMLIN, Finchley-common, Middlesex, licensed victualler.—WILLIAM VARNAM, Ibstock, Leicestershire, draper.—JAMES WELCH, Westbury, Wiltshire, innkeeper.

THE STOCK AND SHARE MARKETS.

City, May 28.

The chief influencing cause of movement in the English Stock Market this month, has been the varying intelligence from France. At the beginning of the month Consols marked $95\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$, and the market showed much steadiness till the 16th, when the price touched $96\frac{3}{8}$; but on this day was received the news of the recall of the French ambassador at London, and Consols fell at once to 95 in consequence. Since then, prices have been gradually creeping up again, and are now rather better than at the commencement of the month, Consols being quoted to-day at $96\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$.

The *Railway Share Market* has been characterised by a much better tone during the month, and prices of all descriptions of stocks have experienced a rise. Within the last few days the public have begun to appear in the market as buyers; and this, added to improved traffic returns, has greatly aided in strengthening prices.

STOCKS.

	Prices During the Month.		
	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols	$96\frac{3}{8}$	95	$96\frac{1}{4}$
Three per Cent. Reduced	$95\frac{1}{2}$	94	$95\frac{1}{4}$
Three and a quarter per Cents.	$97\frac{3}{8}$	$95\frac{7}{8}$	$97\frac{1}{8}$
Long Annuities	$8\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{1}{8}$	$8\frac{1}{4}$
Bank Stock	$207\frac{1}{2}$	$205\frac{1}{2}$	207
India Stock	269	265	269
South Sea Stock	$106\frac{3}{4}$	$105\frac{1}{8}$	$106\frac{1}{8}$
Exchequer Bills	71*s.* prm.	67*s.* prm	70*s.* prm.
India Bonds	93*s.* prm.	87*s.* prm.	90*s.* prm.

RAILWAYS.

Paid.		Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
50	Caledonian	$8\frac{3}{8}$	7	$8\frac{1}{4}$
20	Eastern Counties	$7\frac{1}{4}$	7	$7\frac{1}{8}$
22	Great Northern	$7\frac{1}{8}$	$5\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{8}$
100	Great North of England	220	216	219
100	Great Western	56	$50\frac{3}{4}$	56
50	Lancaster and Carlisle	52	50	52
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	38	$33\frac{3}{4}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$
50	Leeds and Bradford	$93\frac{1}{2}$	$87\frac{1}{2}$	93
100	London, Brighton, and South Coast	$81\frac{1}{2}$	$78\frac{1}{4}$	$81\frac{1}{2}$
100	London and North Western	$104\frac{1}{2}$	$100\frac{1}{2}$	104
100	London and South Western	$61\frac{3}{4}$	58	$61\frac{3}{4}$
100	Midland	$34\frac{1}{2}$	$31\frac{1}{2}$	$34\frac{1}{2}$
$17\frac{1}{2}$	North Staffordshire	$7\frac{5}{8}$	7	$7\frac{1}{4}$
$33\frac{1}{3}$	South Eastern	$14\frac{1}{8}$	$12\frac{7}{8}$	$14\frac{1}{8}$
47	South Wales	19	18	19
25	York, Newcastle, and Berwick	$13\frac{5}{8}$	$11\frac{3}{4}$	$13\frac{5}{8}$
50	York and North Midland	17	$14\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{7}{8}$

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, May 27.

Not much fluctuation has occurred in the price of grain during the month, but the tendency of prices has been decidedly upwards till within the last week, when the improved appearance of the weather has caused buyers to hang back.

Subjoined are the London averages last announced :—

Wheat, per quarter, 44*s.* 7*d.*
Barley, 24*s.*
Oats, 16*s.* 1*d.*
Rye, 22*s.* 10*d.*
Malt, 42*s.* to 52*s.*

Flour, Irish, Norfolk, &c., per sack, 27*s.* to 28*s.*
„ Town, 35*s.* to 37*s.*
„ American, per barrel, 21*s.* to 23*s.*

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt.—Good Waterford, 48*s.* to 51*s.*; American, 30*s.* to 36*s.*

Beef, good, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*

Butter, Irish old, per cwt., 58*s.* to 70*s.*; Fine new Limerick, 70*s.* to 72*s.*; Fine weekly Dorset, 76*s.* to 78*s.*; Dutch, 56*s.* to 64*s.*; Fresh, per 12 lbs., 7*s.* to 10*s.*

Cheese, per cwt.— American, 34*s.* to 43*s.*; Dutch (Gouda), 34*s.* to 41*s.*

Eggs, per 100, 5*s.* to 8*s.*

Hams, per cwt. — American, smoked, 40*s.* to 50*s.*; York and Cumberland, 60*s.* to 70*s.*; Westphalia, new, 54*s.* to 56*s.*

Lamb, per 8 lbs., 4*s.* to 5*s.* 2*d.*

Lard, Irish, in firkins and kegs, 40*s.* to 42*s.*

Mutton, good, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*

Potatoes, per ton.—Yorkshire Regents, 120*s.* to 140*s.*; Scotch cups, 65*s.* to 75*s.*

Pork, fresh, per 8 lbs., 3*s.* 4*d.* to 4*s.*; American, per barrel, 54*s.* to 60*s.*

Veal, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Tea.—Com. Congou, per lb. $8\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $9\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Souchong, ord. to fine, 10*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.*; Com. Hyson, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*; Ditto, mid. to fine, 1*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*

Coffee.— Good ord., Native Ceylon, per cwt., 40*s.*; Do. low to good mid. Jamaica, 47*s.* to 63*s.*

Sugar.—Lumps, per. cwt. 49*s.* to 51*s.*; Brit. West India, good brown, 37*s.* to 38*s.*; Brazil, 32*s.* to 42*s.*

Cocoa, per cwt —Trinidad, 35*s.* to 46*s.*

Rice.—Bengal white, per cwt., 8*s.* 6*d.* to 11*s.*; Java, 7*s.* to 12*s.*

Sago, Pearl per cwt., 19*s.* to 26*s.*

Turkey Figs, per cwt., 1*l.* 11*s.* to 2*l.*

Raisins, Valentia, 2*l.* 7*s.*

Candles, per 12 lbs., 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* | Coals, per ton, 13*s.* to 16*s.* 6*d.*

OILS.

Pale Seal, per ton, good and fine, 29*l.* 15*s.* to 31*l.*

Colonial Sperm, 82*l.* to 83*l.* 15*s.*

Whale, 31*l.* 15*s.*

Palm, per cwt., 30*s.* 6*d.* to 30*s.* 9*d.*

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Monthly Supplement to "*HOUSEHOLD WORDS*," *Conducted by CHARLES DICKENS.*

THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1850.] FROM THE 29TH MAY TO THE 28TH JUNE. [PRICE 2*d.*

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

THE principal event of the month contributes another illustration to Swift's Essay on the important ends which have had contemptible beginnings. A difference which mainly originated in the question of how much a certain ill-treated gentleman had lost by the loss of sundry wines and pickles, upholstery, china, jewels, and silver soup-ladles, has resolved itself into the question of whether England shall be governed by free-trade ministers opposed to despotic repression on the Continent, or by ministers committed against free-trade and in harmony with the cabinets of Vienna and St. Petersburg. It will form a curious chapter in some future history of parties, if, at the very time when such combinations were supposed to have lost all power, the force of party and personal influences on this particular question should succeed in investing that section of the House of Commons which is least influential in numbers, ability, popular sympathy, or official aptitude, with the power which a stronger section in that House had not been able to hold, though backed by the favour of the Sovereign and the good wishes of the people, and engaged in a series of highly-important measures.

The bill prohibiting Intramural Interments, and giving power to the Board of Health to buy up existing cemeteries, to establish new ones, and (with due regard to individual feelings and wishes) to regulate the general management and expenditure of burials, has passed the House of Commons without any material change. There has also been fairly brought before the country, in the form of detailed reports submitted to the legislature, a scheme for the establishment of a Metropolitan Cattle-Market, advising the total extinction of the ancient nuisances of Newgate and Smithfield; and a project for the Supply of Water to the Metropolis from the neighbourhood of Bagshot Heath, of which the realisation would place London, in respect to such advantages, above every past or existing city in the ancient or modern world. But to these benefits and promises of social legislation, present or prospective, we have some important set-offs to make in our record of the month's proceedings. The bill to provide instruction for such of the poorer classes of the people in England as are excluded from the advantages of all existing schemes of education, has been rejected by a very large majority; and a bill somewhat similar in its object with regard to Scotland, supported by the Free Church, and having in view the relief of parochial schools from general Church control, and the nationalisation (so to speak) of Scotch education, has been rejected by a very small majority. These divisions indicate the growing strength of a party which it somewhat misuses a noble historical name to call Puritan. To

> "Compound for sins we are inclined to
> By damning those we have no mind to,
> Still so perverse and opposite
> *As if we worshipp'd God for spite*"—

is to dishonour by the mere pretence of imitation the stern self-denial of the enthusiasts of the seventeenth century. They would not have voted with Lord Ashley to shut the post on a Sunday, yet hesitated with him to put an interdict on Sunday travelling. They would not have struck from the poor all means of kindly and needful communication with their friends for nearly a third of every week, yet left it as a privilege to the rich to put carriages and messengers into requisition at their pleasure. The complaint of the leading Sabbatarian organ, that Lord Ashley's band of followers had been thinned by the attractions of Epsom, was an egregiously simple exposure of the real truth of the matter, side by side with that assumed cant of it which rules the outward conduct of so many. But perhaps it will not ultimately be matter of regret that the chief experiment should have been made, even at the cost of all the discomfort it involves, and though it was clearly not the duty of a government to have yielded to what they knew to be evil, on the surest calculation that good might come of it. The House of Lords has meanwhile been emboldened to pass a bill for the prevention of Sunday trading, which will deprive the poor man of all access to articles of food or domestic requirement on a Sunday, with the exception of meat and fish up to nine o'clock for the four summer months, while it will insure to the rich man a morning delivery at his own house, all the year round, of whatever fish, meat, poultry, or game he requires; which will fine or imprison a barber who shaves after ten o'clock in the morning, and similarly punish a newsvender for selling anything that is not stamped, while it overlooks the newsvender who sells anything that is stamped, and leaves the publican and sinner to shave *himself* if he can. But it is hardly conceivable that a majority will be caught in the lower House for this ridiculous bill, even at the dangerous dinner-hour—when small knots of conspirators carry questions by sudden storm, and ministers are made to stand and deliver on every conceivable subject, from stamp acts and triennial parliaments to letter-carriers and British distillers.

The bill regulating the hours of Factory labour has passed the Commons unmutilated, and the Australian bill has narrowly escaped mutilation in the Lords, its most distinctive feature having been retained by an infinitesimal majority. The County Courts bill has reached the upper house in too weakly a condition to be able to make any very effective stand against the fate which is said to await it there. Another important measure has got into the clutches of a somewhat equivocal committee in their Lordships' house, and the Bishop of Salisbury is doing his best to nullify the Manchester Rectory bill. We have also to record that the Railway Audit bill, as amended by the Lords, has since been rejected by the Commons on the ground of interference with privilege; but, however unfortunate it may be that existing facilities for fraud

and evasion should continue unchecked any longer, the proposed bill was cumbrous and defective, and its rejection is not to be deplored. The sin of modern legislation is the want of simplicity. The object proposed in this Audit bill was missed in the machinery for effecting it; and hence generally comes that grievous scandal of the modern statute-book, which consists in its unending repetition of acts for the amendment of other acts that had themselves amended previous amending enactments, and which threatens to make one enormous pettifogging Nisi Prius of the laws of this lawyer-ridden country. From the opening of the session to the middle of the present month, no less than a hundred and thirty-two bills had been under discussion in the House of Commons, and not a few were measures of this kind.

Nor is it seldom that the bill amended would not be infinitely better without the bill amending it. The last news from Ireland, for example, brings mention of a very important sale of encumbered estates (in County Meath) realising upwards of sixty thousand pounds and an average of between eighteen and nineteen years' purchase; yet, on the same page which thus records the continued success of that admirable measure, we have also to mention a so-called improvement of it forced upon the Government by Lord Westmeath, the effect of which, unless the House of Commons interfere, will be to prevent the future sale of a certain class of estates for less than fifteen years' purchase. It was discussed amid such frantic complaints of "confiscation" by the "encumbered" legislators of the Upper House, that Lord Carlisle had nothing for it but to give way with signs of extreme reluctance. Meanwhile the terrible evil to which this measure is applying the only sure (though a necessarily slow) remedy, has had one more illustration of a very appalling kind, in the deliberate murder during open day, and almost within sight of the inhabitants of a country village in Armagh, of a land-agent remarkable for his harshness to the poor, who had been concerned in extensive evictions, and whose last act had been to refuse with a curse the prayer of a poor widow, offering him the last money she could scrape together for a favour he set no store by, and was quite ready to give to any one but the miserable wretch in want of it. It seems strange to have to mention, in the presence of such facts as these, two attempts by Irish members of the House of Commons, the one to effect what would be tantamount to a repeal of the poor law, and the other to render more swift and stringent the law of eviction. Both were happily defeated; but the existence of such desires and aims on the part of the landlord representatives of Ireland may help to account for the uncontrollable vehemence with which the question of what is called tenant-right continues to be agitated throughout the country, notwithstanding extreme and very absurd differences among its advocates as to what is really intended by the expression. The Parliamentary Franchise bill still lingers in the Lords; and in the Commons the Vice-royalty Abolition bill makes such feeble progress, in spite of a feeble opposition, that it seems doubtful if the present session will see it passed. Alarming reports have prevailed as to the re-appearance of the potato blight; but, for the most part, these would seem exaggerations, and already it is noticed that the blackening of leaves which had been mistaken for the blight has yielded to the sunny warmth of the later days of the month. The promises of harvest are everywhere abundant.

In England, too, where the weather has been sultry beyond precedent, the anticipations of harvest, the state of the markets, and the last returns of exports and imports published by the Board of Trade, are of a character by no means likely to furnish arguments for the restoration of protection. Yet the "farmer's friends" have not been inactive; either in the country, where parson M'Neill, of Liverpool, came vainly to the rescue of the Chowlers and the Butts; or in the House of Commons, where a band of philanthropical free traders came as vainly to the help of the Stanleys and Disraelis, on a motion which, if successful, would have protected free labour as against slave-labour in sugar and coffee. Not inaptly have the protectionists had some small glance of comfort, however, to set off against their ill success, in the shape of a *beer* report, from a committee of the House of Lords, proclaiming the scandalous mismanagement of many of the free-trade beer-shops. But not a few of the conclusions come to in this report are confessedly exceptional, and one or two statements of a different tendency ought to be coupled with our mention of them. One of the witnesses examined, for instance, declared that he had begun the business eighteen years back with a capital of a shilling, that he now drove a trade of some sixty barrels a month, that he attributed much of his success to having never allowed swearing or smoking on his premises, and that he intends to retire from business next year, and live in a part of the country "where there are no ill-conducted beer-houses." The same witness protested that since Father Mathew visited London there had been more drinking than before he came; and with characteristic plain-speaking, undeterred by any fear of seeming to speak with an interested motive, Mr. Bouch added that there was a great deal of nonsense about the Reverend Father's preaching, for that temperance was a good, but teetotalism an evil, to the constitution; seeing that temperate people will drink a deal of beer, and "beer is very strengthening." We should add, in connexion with this subject, that its agitation has led to a somewhat lively attack on the monopoly of the brewing interest—the potentates of the vat, who are accused of setting at defiance the most elementary maxim of fair trade, by refusing to adjust their selling prices to the reduced cost of their raw material. No matter what may be the price of barley, they keep up the price of beer. A pot of porter or ale costs just as much, with barley at twenty-two shillings, as when barley was fifty-five; and the difference which has brought down the quartern loaf one half has made not the least difference to the autocrats of single and double X. Such is the advantage of the wealthy brewer over the needy baker. The consumer of bread profits by his poor tradesman, if the grower of corn does not; but neither the consumer of beer nor the grower of barley can cope with the wealthy brewer. Free trade and abundance has taken five millions from the landlord, but the brewer stops it *in transitu* and pockets it; for to him still, as in the days of Thrale and Johnson, the boiler and vat are but another name for "the potentiality of growing rich beyond the dreams of avarice." Nevertheless farmers' friends seem to be in no mind to agitate this question. They express themselves far more interested in the doings of Mr. Ferrand.

Mr. Busfield Ferrand has started a notable scheme of a Farmer's Wool and Flax Association, of which the object is to crush the factories of the Manchester spinners by erecting a spinning-wheel in every cottage! Wool and flax are to be substituted for cotton; and the execrable trade which has made Manchester what it is, by annually consigning a hundred thousand beings to hopeless bondage, and by directly occasioning a thousand murders a-day (we quote the cautious description of the pious *Standard*, the organ of Lord Stanley's government that is to be, and the trusted exponent of its opinions), is to be forthwith destroyed. But Mr. Bright is apparently an obstinate man. He still thinks the article of cotton so likely to continue in request, that

he has actually proposed a Commission for Inquiry whether a Supply might not be brought from India to compete with that of the United States in the markets of Manchester; to which the government has responded by a negative.

For a very different object of inquiry new hopes have arisen. The possible safety of Franklin has been suggested by the report of the immense fields of crushed ice now rife in the North Atlantic Ocean. It is supposed that these vast fields are portions of the slowly released masses, the growth of many preceding winters, which were first broken two winters ago by the strong south-west and southerly gales over all the North Atlantic and North Pacific; but which, in consequence of their bulk and extent, were again condensed before they could be fairly swept into the Atlantic, and thus offered continued obstruction to the release of Franklin and his ships. Nor would this appear to be impossible, assuming detention in the ice to have been the only danger, and that continued means of subsistence were accessible. Meanwhile the accidents arising out of these floating masses of ice have been lamentable in the extreme,—a vast number of ships having perished, with the loss of more than a hundred thousand pounds in money, and, it is feared, some hundreds of men,—but are very justly less an object of surprise and alarm than such incidents on a well-known coast, in tranquil water, and under a clear summer sky, as the sudden wreck of one of the Glasgow and Liverpool steamers carrying two hundred souls. Inquiry is instituted into this event, and proceedings will be taken against the master and mate.

The Law Courts of the past month have supplied fewer interesting or important cases than usual; but rather a curious question has been tried in Dublin, where a verdict was given of which the effect is to affirm the validity of a bill of exchange already declared a forgery by an English jury, and which had consigned a money-lender to transportation. The English Exchequer has distinguished itself by granting Doctor Philpotts what the Queen's Bench and Common Pleas had successively refused, and, on the ground that it would be able to give judgment sooner after hearing the arguments on a rule than if it had no arguments to hear, has consented to a rule *Nisi*. This is doubtless some comfort for the Bishop under the defeat of his brother of London's bill in the Lords, which would fain have re-established, in the nineteenth century, spiritual pretensions and spiritual tribunals scouted in the seventeenth century by every intelligent Englishman. Another good act of their Lordships deserves praise, as the first instance of their granting a full divorce upon a petition *in formâ pauperis;* but we have, as usual, to record legal proceedings less consonant with the spirit of the age, of which an instance offers itself in a bequest of money for an essay on natural theology, declared void on the ground of its not recognising formal Christianity. Perhaps this should be the place for noticing the sudden eruption of a sort of civil war between her Majesty's Customs and the London Dock Companies, originating in what are alleged to be unfair demands made by the Customs on the Companies for duties on goods already passed. Not only would her Majesty's Commissioners have their due payment on barrels of sugar, but a fresh payment on the sweepings thereof, before these undergo the metempsychosis of lollypop or hard-bake. Our summary must not conclude without a mention of two strange arrivals that have furnished very notable attraction during the month to all kinds of sight-seeing people. A young Hippopotamus of more than ordinary ugliness from the Seventh Cataract, has divided interest and curiosity with a mission of more than Oriental magnificence from the most distant frontier of India.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

ON the 30th of May Lord BROUGHAM called the attention of the HOUSE OF LORDS to a matter of *Privilege*. An article had appeared in the Globe and subsequently in the Daily News, containing absurd mis-statements respecting his conduct in the Earl of Lincoln's divorce case. He had filed an affidavit with a view to a criminal information against the Globe, but the proprietor had since made a sufficient explanation and apology. In regard to the Daily News, he should take till the next day to consider whether he should move that the printer be called to the bar. [On the following evening his lordship took no notice of the subject.]

On Friday the 31st Earl GREY moved the second reading of the *Australian Colonies Bill*, overruling Earl Fitzwilliam's wish to postpone it on account of the very thin attendance. The motion was not opposed; but several peers objected to particular points of the bill, especially the adoption of a single legislative chamber, instead of two separate chambers.

On Monday the 3rd inst. the Bishop of LONDON moved the second reading of his bill for providing *A New Court of Appeal* in cases involving questions of Heresy. He explained that his supposed court was to consist of the bench of bishops, who were to be summoned whenever a case turning upon doctrinal points came before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and their decision, as reported to the Committee of Council, was to govern the judgment of that body. He supported his measure by precedents and analogies; referring particularly to the courts of law, who remitted questions beyond their own immediate knowledge to arbitrators professionally qualified to determine them. These were questions so new to a lay tribunal that its members could not even understand the terms in which they were couched, while a prelate of the church would consider them as the mere alphabet of theology. He concluded, with great solemnity and much emotion, by a devout aspiration that the House might be guided to a right conclusion.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE considered the measure as perilous at the present moment, besides being objectionable in principle. It violated the prerogative of the Crown, which from time immemorial had been the final court of appeal in all cases, besides being the supreme head of the Church. There was no occasion for a new tribunal in matters of doctrine; the Judicial Committee of Council could only have to decide whether a certain doctrine was that of the Church, and this fact they were as competent to decide as the Court of Chancery to decide on a point of chemical science. Suppose the bishops were to decide by a bare majority, this would create instead of allaying controversy. He was, however, prepared to recommend that all the bishops should be *de jure* members of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and that no dissenter, in that committee, should sit on ecclesiastical questions.—Lord BROUGHAM opposed the bill, but suggested that a committee of bishops might be appointed, which should report their opinions on such questions; those opinions not to be binding, but to be of the nature of aid or advice.—Lord STANLEY denied that the bill interfered with the prerogative of the Crown. He should support the second reading, though he desired the measure to be modified, so as to make the bishops a court of arbiters in matters of doctrine, in the same manner as the judges are in matters of law.—The bill was supported by Lord Redesdale, Lord Lyttelton, and the Bishop of Oxford; and was opposed by the Bishop of St. David's, Lord Campbell, the Earl of Chichester, and the Earl of Carlisle. On the division the second reading was negatived by 84 to 51.

On Thursday the 6th, the Marquis of LANSDOWNE moved the second reading of the *Irish Parliamentary Electors Bill*. A desultory discussion of some length

ensued, in which objections were made to the details of the bill, but it was read a second time without a division.

Several questions having been put to ministers, on Friday the 7th, respecting the *Expedition from America against Cuba*, Lords LANSDOWNE and GREY said, that it had been fitted out in defiance of the express prohibition of the American Government; but they declined to state whether any instructions had been sent to the commander of the British naval force on the station.

The second reading of the *Encumbered Estates Act Amendment* (Ireland) *Bill* was moved on Monday the 10th, by Lord WESTMEATH, who explained that its object was to fix 15 years' purchase as the minimum price below which no man's property should be sold under the act of last session, which he called a measure of confiscation; and also to exempt from the operation of that act estates which were only slightly encumbered. The motion was supported by the Duke of RICHMOND and the Earl of GLENGALL; the latter, however, vehemently denounced the whole measure, as being designed merely "to uphold some dirty theory of the Manchester School." The Earl of CARLISLE, on the part of the government, objected to a measure which would cripple the operation of the existing statute, but afterwards withdrew his opposition to the second reading of the bill, in order that it might go down to the House of Commons where it might be discussed in conjunction with another bill on the same subject, brought in by the Solicitor-General. The bill was accordingly read a second time.—The committal of the *Australian Colonies Bill* was opposed by Lord BROUGHAM and the Bishop of OXFORD; the former moved that certain petitioners against the bill should be heard by counsel at the bar; the latter, that the bill should be referred to a select committee. Both motions were negatived; the first by 33 to 25, the second by 34 to 21.

On Tuesday the 11th, the house went into committee on the above bill. Lord MONTEAGLE again brought forward the question of single or double chambers, by moving, as an amendment to the first clause, that there should be a legislative council and a representative assembly, in each of the colonies of New South Wales and Victoria. After a discussion containing a repetition of the old arguments on both sides, the amendment was rejected by 22 to 20. The Bishop of OXFORD also revived the ecclesiastical question previously disposed of, by moving the insertion of a clause enabling the Church of England in the colonies to lay down rules for its own internal government; but he withdrew his motion on an assurance that the government would inquire into the matter.

On Thursday, the 13th, Lord MONTEAGLE moved for copies of official documents respecting the issue of a *Commission of Inquiry as to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge*.—He apprehended that the commission might interfere with improvements now in contemplation, and complained of the course adopted without previous communication with the authorities of the universities.—The Earl of CARLISLE said there was no objection to the production of the papers; and that the total absence of any hostile spirit on the part of the government would be shown by the nomination of the commissioners, who should be members attached to the universities, and able to co-operate beneficially with their own members.—Lord BROUGHAM objected to the commission *in toto*, and expressed astonishment at the letter which had appeared from Prince Albert, who, he said, had been placed in a false position by the mistaken zeal of his friends. The head of an university ought not to be connected with the Crown, and the Prince had fallen into the mistake of supposing that the royal commission spoke the sense of the parliament, a natural mistake for those who had lived in foreign countries where the legislature and the sovereign were one; but the royal commission would speak the sense of the Crown, and not at all that of the parliament.—The Duke of WELLINGTON expressed his satisfaction with Lord Carlisle's explanation of the way in which the commission was to be nominated, though he did not consider the measure necessary or desirable. The papers were ordered.

The consideration, in committee, of the *Australian Colonies Bill* was resumed on Friday, the 14th. Lord STANLEY objected to the 30th clause, which empowers the Queen in council to establish a General Assembly of the Australian Colonies, on petition by two or more of them; and moved the omission of that clause and the subsequent clauses depending on it.—Lord GREY defended the principle of the clause, but intimated, that in consequence of objections lately urged, he had prepared an amendment to the effect that the general colonial legislature so constituted should be "only for certain purposes." Lord STANLEY's amendment was negatived by 23 to 22; and Lord GREY then introduced his amendment, the discussion of which was postponed.—Lord BROUGHAM withdrew his *Court of Chancery Appeal Bill*, on account of the difficulties at present attending the arrangement of the duties of the Great Seal. He besought the government to proceed deliberately in their intended measure on this subject.

On Monday the 17th the expected debate of Lord Stanley's motion on *the Greek Question* attracted an unusual attendance both of peers and strangers. Before the business of the house began Lord BROUGHAM suddenly started up with an excited air, and said, that he had given notice that no person, peer or commoner, had a right to sit in the peeresses' gallery, but that a gentleman was now sitting there, and that, if he did not come down, he (Lord Brougham) would move the enforcement of the rules of the house. The gentleman's conduct (he added) was the more intolerable, as he had already excluded two peeresses, though he had a place assigned to him in the house. This objurgation, which produced much laughter, was levelled at the Chevalier Bunsen, who, with two ladies, was sitting in the peeresses' gallery, and kept his seat apparently unaware that he was the object of remark. Lord Brougham then hastened across the house and desired the usher of the black rod to "take him out." Sir A. Clifford went into the gallery, and immediately the Chevalier Bunsen rose and quitted it with his companions. This unpleasant scene over, Lord STANLEY proceeded to move his resolution. It was: "That while the house fully recognises the right and duty of government to secure to Her Majesty's subjects residing in foreign states the full protection of the laws of those states, it regrets to find, by the correspondence recently laid upon the table by Her Majesty's command, that various claims against the Greek government, doubtful in point of justice or exaggerated in amount, have been enforced by coercive measures directed against the commerce and people of Greece, and calculated to endanger the continuance of our friendly relations with other powers." Lord Stanley supported his motion at great length; entering minutely into the merits of the various causes of quarrel with the Greek government, which he maintained were paltry and contemptible; tracing the history of the negotiation between the governments, of our hostile measures of coercion, of the kindly mediation of France and our ungracious reception of it; blaming Lord Palmerston's negligence in not apprising Mr. Wyse of the convention which had been made in London; and accusing the government, through its foreign minister, of having insisted on exorbitant demands, oppressed the weak, and endangered the peace of Europe.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE defended the government. He maintained that it was the right and the duty of the British government to protect its subjects resident in foreign countries; and brought forward a great many instances in which the British government had done so. It was no objection to the principle of a claim that it was urged in favour of an unworthy claimant, or that its amount was small; the most paltry amount might involve a principle of the highest importance. As regarded the dispute with France, Mr. Wyse had given explanations which showed that it was physically impossible that he could have had any knowledge of the terms of the London convention at the time that he was proceeding to enforce the arrangement entered into by himself; but a desire to return to the terms of the London convention was felt on both sides, and, as far as possible, those terms would be made the subject of a treaty. The resolution was supported by the Earl of Aberdeen, the Earl of Cardigan, Viscount Canning, the Earl of Hardwicke, and Lord Brougham: Lord Ward, Lord Beaumont, and Lord Eddisbury defended

the government. The resolution was carried by 169 to 132; a majority of 37 against the government.

The *Irish Encumbered Estates Bill* was read a third time on Tuesday the 18th. The Marquis of WESTMEATH moved the addition of a clause restricting the commissioners from selling any estate for less than fifteen years' purchase. It was opposed by the Earl of Carlisle, and supported by Earl Fitzwilliam, the Earl of Stradbroke, and Lord Stanley. On a division it was carried against ministers by 32 to 30. Another clause, to protect from arrest the proprietors of encumbered estates during the legal formalities preliminary to sale, was moved by the Marquis of WESTMEATH, and carried without a division, the Earl of Carlisle merely expressing his disapprobation of it. The bill then passed.

On Friday the 21st Lord BROUGHAM stated that he and other lawyers had grave doubts whether, by law, the Crown was able to give the directions, in reference to *Sunday Labour in the Post Office*, which the address from the House of Commons had prayed. The Marquis of LANSDOWNE said that the point should receive serious consideration.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE moved for the appointment of a committee to take into consideration the accommodation of the diplomatic body as visitors of the house. After some explanations from Lord Brougham, and remarks from Lord Grey and other peers, the motion was agreed to.

The matter of *the New Post Office Regulations* was brought forward on Monday the 24th by Lord BROUGHAM, who insisted forcibly on the hardship and inconvenience they produced.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE said that the Crown had the power to make regulations as to the transmission of letters, though he feared that the new scheme would tend greatly to the desecration of the sabbath.

On Tuesday the 25th, on the presentation of a petition against the Post Office regulations, Lord BROUGHAM recurred to the subject. He had received a letter from a manufacturer who stated that his waggoner was killed on his road home to Derby on Saturday last, and in consequence of the recent postal arrangement he could not ascertain whether any goods had been stolen from his waggon without sending special messengers to Birmingham, Manchester, and other towns where it had stopped. Therefore, in this case, instead of sending letters quietly through the Post Office, this gentleman had been obliged to send men, who, of course, could not go to church, and the consequence was a greater desecration of the sabbath. The day before yesterday the sabbath had been compulsorily broken in every part of the kingdom. All over England this breach of the sabbath was going on, because the Post Office would not employ a few clerks on Sundays. In Liverpool, for instance, where commercial intelligence was of the highest importance, fifty or sixty clerks might be despatched by the railroad to obtain intelligence which might easily have been transmitted by letter, with the employment of only five or six persons.

The *intended Resignation* of Lord Chancellor Cottenham was announced by Lord John RUSSELL, in the HOUSE OF COMMONS on the Tuesday the 28th of May. His Lordship added that any person accepting the great seal must take it subject to the decision of parliament with respect to the amount of pension. As to the separation of the judicial and political functions of the office, that was a subject which required very serious consideration.—Mr. MILES moved a resolution that the government should take immediate steps to forward the emigration of orphan girls, inmates of workhouses in England and Wales, to Australia as apprentices.—Mr. STAFFORD moved, as an amendment, the substitution of the United Kingdom for "England and Wales," on the ground that such steps would be peculiarly beneficial to Ireland.—Mr. HAWES objected on the grounds, first, that there was no longer the same demand as formerly for female servants in the colonies, and next, that the available fund was too small. The discussion was proceeding when the house was counted out.

On Thursday the 30th the Commons met at 12 o'clock for the first time in their *New House*. The sitting being experimental, no important business was done.—At the evening sitting, in the old chamber, Lord ASHLEY brought forward his motion for the suppression of *Sunday Labour in the Post Office*. Admitting that a good deal had already been done, he explained his object to be that all the provincial towns should be placed on the same footing as the Metropolis. He had no desire to interfere with the passenger traffic on Sunday; all he wished was to stop the transmission of the mail bags.—The motion was opposed by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, who observed that it was a curious illustration of the way in which subjects were sometimes taken up in England, that the measure which had caused all the agitation had, by temporarily employing 25 clerks in addition to the 27 previously employed on Sunday, relieved 8000 persons from all Sunday work, which would interfere with their religious duties. He conceived that what had been done should be accepted as a pledge of still further reduction, and would make every inquiry into its practicability. But he believed that the proposed change would produce much hardship to the great majority of the people, especially the poor, who have not the means to command express trains, electric telegraphs, and other expedients for speedy communication. The motion was carried by 93 to 68.

On Friday the 31st, Sir Edward BUXTON moved a resolution "that it is unjust and impolitic to expose the free-grown sugar of the British Colonies and possessions to unrestricted competition with the sugar of slave-trading countries." He took a review of the combined effect which negro emancipation, with the successive measures for throwing open the sugar trade, have had on the economic and social state of the West Indies; and contended that the steady and progressive increase of the trade of Cuba and Brazil, in consequence of the advantage of slave labour, is crushing the prosperity of our own colonies. To suppress the slave-trade had been found impossible, and the only protection for our colonies was the imposition of differential duties on foreign sugar.—Mr. HUME apprehended that the evil lay in the difficulties interposed by the British government to an adequate supply of free labour for our colonies from Africa and other places; and moved an amendment to that effect.—Colonel THOMPSON supported the original motion, in which he saw nothing inconsistent with the principle of free trade.—Mr. James WILSON denied that our recent free-trade legislation had done any injury to our colonies, and contended that, since that legislation, the production of sugar had increased in our own colonies at a greater rate than in Brazil or Cuba.—Mr. E. H. STANLEY (the son of Lord Stanley) in a maiden speech, much complimented for ability, described, from his own personal observation, the desolate state of the West India colonies, and ascribed their condition to their inability to contend with slave-holding countries.—Sir J. Pakington and Mr. Gladstone supported the motion; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Hutt, and Lord Palmerston, opposed it. On the division, it was negatived by 275 to 234.

The *Metropolitan Interments Bill* was considered in committee on Monday the 3rd of June, a discussion having been previously raised on a motion by Mr. Lacy that the bill should be referred to a select committee. This motion was supported by the metropolitan members, who, however, expressed approbation of the principles of the measure; but the prevailing opinion was that the details of the bill could be best amended in a committee of the whole house.—Sir R. PEEL, supporting this opinion, enlivened the debate by a joke, "If the bill were sent to a select committee, it would be one of the most extraordinary cases of *Extra-mural Interment* ever heard of."—Mr. Lacy's motion was lost by 159 to 57, and the house went into committee.—On clause 2, Mr. DUNCOMBE (whose appearance in the house for the first time since his long illness was hailed with acclamations) moved the omission of that and several of the clauses, for the substitution of provisions giving to the parish authorities of certain districts powers which, as the bill stood, would be given to the board of health. This amendment was negatived by 135 to 57, and Mr. Duncombe intimated that he would not offer any further opposition. The clauses up to 18 were then agreed to.

Resolutions respecting the *Irish Poor Law* were moved on Tuesday the 4th, by Mr. FRENCH. They were, in substance, that no permanent system of poor relief in Ireland can be beneficial unless founded on a strict application of in-door relief; that vice-guardians are unconstitutional; that the present administration of the poor is extravagant and demoralising; and that it is unjust to throw the chief burden on one kind of property.—In his statements as to the evils caused by the present working of the poor law he was supported by Lord NAAS, who described the demoralisation in the Irish workhouses as frightful. There are 119,000 children undergoing contamination by being mixed with a concourse including the most abandoned of each sex. In the South Dublin union, a multitude of young girls are thus drafted among a crowd of able-bodied women who are almost all prostitutes. They are necessarily perverted, and soon enter a vicious course, which keeps them travelling in a perpetual circle from the workhouse to the brothel and from the brothel to the workhouse. It is enough to bring a curse upon the country.—Sir W. SOMERVILLE affirmed that the recent introduction of out-door relief had been necessary to prevent the people from perishing of famine, and vindicated the vice-guardians from the charge of mal-administration and extravagance.—The resolutions, after being supported by Colonel Dunne and Mr. O'Flaherty, and opposed by Mr. W. Sharman Crawford and Mr. Poulett Scrope, were negatived by 90 to 65.

The debate on the second reading of Mr Fox's *Education Bill*, adjourned from the 17th of April, was resumed on Wednesday, the 5th. Mr. ANSTEY supported the principle of the bill, without pledging himself to the details.—Mr. H. DRUMMOND drew a somewhat subtle distinction between education and instruction. Secular instruction might be given by the state, but education—the drawing forth of that which is good, and the non-drawing forth of that which is evil—is a work for the parents while the child is young, and afterwards for the Church.—Mr. Page WOOD took a review of what had been done by the Church in the cause of education; and, from what the Church had already done, he inferred that she was worthy to retain the trust.—Mr. Milner GIBSON contended that if school attendance was made compulsory upon persons employed in factories, schools ought to be provided at the public expense, open to all religious denominations. The bill did not interfere with the present machinery for religious education. No less than ten millions was annually spent in England on what was called religious education—twice as much as in any other country. The bill did not touch this enormous sum, so that religious education was amply provided for; and what was now asked was provision for secular instruction within the reach of the people. Secular instruction was not the province of the Church; if it were, what a reproach would it be to the Church that forty in the hundred of the adult population of England and Wales could not write their names in the marriage registers!—Mr. Fox summed up the debate, and replied to several misrepresentations of the nature and objects of the measure. On a division, the bill was thrown out by 287 to 58.

On Monday, the 6th, the house went into committee on the *Factories Bill*. The proceedings were almost confined to the discussion of an amendment on the first clause, moved by Mr. ELLIOT, to the effect of legalising relays, provided that young persons and females should not be employed for more than ten hours daily, between half-past eight in the morning, and half-past eight in the evening, and provided that the relays should be absent from the factory for not less than three consecutive hours.—Sir G. GREY opposed the amendment as contrary to the whole spirit of the bill.—Mr. EDWARDS charged Lord Ashley, "the Champion of the Operatives," with having abandoned their cause by concurring in the government measure.—Lord ASHLEY replied, with great earnestness, "I never considered myself as their champion, but I did consider myself their friend; and I declare before God, that I have done that which appeared to me to be the best for their interests; and every successive hour, and all the intelligence I receive, convince me that, by God's blessing, I have been enabled to judge aright. I may be permitted to state, solemnly and before this august assembly, that I have sacrificed to them almost everything that a public man holds dear to him; and now I have concluded by giving them that which I prize most of all—I have even sacrificed for them my reputation."—After some further debate, the amendment was rejected by 246 to 45.—Lord ASHLEY moved another amendment on the same clause, to the effect of giving children of tender years the same protection as that enjoyed by adult females and young persons, namely, that they were to work only from six to six o'clock.—This amendment was also negatived by 102 to 72, and the remaining clauses were agreed to.

The *Metropolitan Interments Bill* was then resumed in committee, and clauses, up to the 23rd, were agreed to. The principal points on which the discussion turned were; the power to remove bodies from the present burial-grounds with or without the consent of the incumbent, and subject or not subject to payment of fees; the suspicious absence of any schedule of fees in the bill, and the backwardness of government to give any pledge as to the amount of fees; and on the proper width of the space, or belt, which should be drawn round the cemeteries, and whereon no house may be built. Lord John RUSSELL deprecated the fixing of a schedule of fees without further experience. It was at last agreed that the fixing of the fees shall be left to the board of health, subject to the approval of the secretary of state.

On Friday the 7th, Lord John RUSSELL announced that the *Lord Chancellor intended to resign* as soon as he had disposed of the causes heard by him; and that he (Lord J. Russell) had advised the Crown to put the great seal in commission.—Further progress was made in committee with the *Metropolitan Interments Bill*, the clauses up to 30 having been agreed to.

Her Majesty's answer to the address on the subject of *Sunday Labour in the Post Office* was communicated to the house on Monday the 10th by Sir G. Grey. It was as follows:—"I have received your address, praying that the transmission and delivery of letters may in future entirely cease on Sunday in all parts of the kingdom; also, that inquiry may be made as to how far, without injury to the public service, the transmission of the mails on the Lord's Day might be diminished or entirely suspended: and, in compliance with your request, I shall give directions accordingly."—Lord John RUSSELL afterwards announced that no exception would be made in favour of foreign correspondence, it being the intention of government completely to carry out the vote.

The grant for the *New Houses of Parliament* then came under consideration. Mr. HUME moved that the amount should be 100,610*l.* instead of 103,610*l.*; his object being, by this retrenchment of 3000*l.*, to put an end for the present to the proceedings of the committee of taste, and prevent any further expenditure on pictures before they knew the cost of completing what was useful and substantial. He complained of the enormous expense created by incessant alterations, which had swelled the original estimate of 707,000*l.* into two millions.—The motion was opposed by Sir C. WOOD and by Sir R. PEEL, who taxed Mr. Hume with having himself been one of the main suggesters of the alterations of which he now complained; and made good his charge to some extent by reference to parliamentary documents, amid loud laughter.—Mr. OSBORNE supported the motion, observing that the house should be finished first and adorned afterwards. His opposition to the sum proposed to be granted for Mr. Landseer's pictures was grounded on his respect for that artist, and his unwillingness to see his works in so bad a position.—Sir R. PEEL explained that the place intended for those pictures had been assigned with the full concurrence of Mr. Landseer himself.—Lord John RUSSELL defended all the parties concerned in the new building, and opposed the motion, which was negatived by 144 to 62.—Mr. HUME then moved for a select committee, which after a short discussion was rejected by 85 to 55.

The *Irish Lord Lieutenancy Abolition Bill*, on the question of its second reading, was warmly opposed by several Irish members, Mr. Grattan, Mr. G. A. Hamilton, Mr. Maurice O'Connell, Colonel Dunne, and Mr. Grogan, who reiterated objections previously made to

the measure. It was supported by Mr. Roebuck, and Lord John Russell, and the debate was adjourned to Monday following.

On Tuesday the 11th, the house went into committee on the *Metropolitan Interments Bill*. On the reading of the 32nd clause, which provides compensation to the clergy for the loss of their present fees, Sir Benjamin HALL complained that in some parishes the clergy made a traffic of their burial grounds, and supported his complaint by some remarkable statements. "He would take the case of St. Giles's-in-the-Fields as an instance. What had been the conduct of the clergyman there?—a clergyman, too, who was very well off, for he had 1000*l.* a year as Canon of St. Paul's, in addition to 987*l.* as rector of St. Giles's. It had been the practice there to make a feint of covering the coffin whilst the mourners were present; but as soon as they were gone, the body and coffin were taken up, the head of the deceased was severed from his body, and cast into a hole, in order that putrefaction may speedily set in. This was done in order to afford more ground for burials, and to bring fees to the clergyman. In 1846, there were but 896 deaths in St. Giles's, yet there were 2,323 burials; in 1847, there were 1,298 deaths, and 2,877 burials; in 1848 there were 1,111 deaths, and 3,578 burials; and in the half-year of 1849, there were 571 deaths, and no fewer than 3,423 burials; making altogether 3,876 deaths, and 12,221 burials in the course of three and a half years. The body and coffin were wheeled away in a wheelbarrow; the head was severed from the body and thrown into a vault. Yet this man had the assurance to state in his evidence that the cemeteries of St. Pancras were in a satisfactory condition. He had a sort of square in the burial-ground where the more wealthy class of persons were interred; from whom he of course obtained a higher fee. All these abominations occurred not only under his own jurisdiction, but he had joined with him another clergyman as his sexton—a man who was first a soldier, then a parson, then a sexton, and afterwards, in the natural course of things, an undertaker and stone mason."—Sir G. GREY felt assured that the clergyman, Dr. Tyler, could not have any connexion with such doings. Mr. WAKLEY confirmed Sir B. Hall's statement; but he believed that Dr. Tyler was not aware at the time of what had been going on, for the funeral service was performed by the reverend sexton. The committee proceeded through the bill as far as clause 53 inclusive.

Lord NAAS moved that the house should go into committee to consider the present mode of levying the *Duty on Home-made Spirits in Bond*. He pointed out the unfairness of the present mode of levying, which, assessing the duty on home spirits as they are made, allows nothing for waste and leakage, as in the case of colonial spirits, which pay duty on the quantity measured when taken out of bond. Mr. WILSON and Sir Charles WOOD opposed the motion as disturbing the settlement of these duties made in 1846; but it was carried by 85 to 53, leaving the ministry in a minority, a result which drew loud cheers from the opposition. The house then resolved into committee, and resolutions in accordance with the previous vote were passed without further discussion.

Lord JOCELYN moved for papers respecting the proposed *Railway between Madras and Arcot*, and enlarged on the importance of facilitating railway communication in India. The papers were ordered.

In moving the second reading of the *Court of Chancery Bill*, on Wednesday the 12th, Mr. TURNER explained its objects and provisions. Instead of the present proceedings in the Court of Chancery, it provided that if the parties should concur in stating the question in the form of a special case, upon which the matter at issue should be heard and at once decided; this would do away with bill, answers, inquiries in the master's office, and all the load of preliminary proceedings. The second branch of the bill gave protection to executors and trustees, who, under the existing practice, after honestly fulfilling their trusts, and paying over the residue to the legatees, might nevertheless be sued at the end of twenty, or even forty years, by persons having interest under a settlement.—Some remarks, generally favourable to the bill, were made by the SOLICITOR-GENERAL and Mr. Page WOOD, and the bill was read a second time.

On Thursday the 13th, the *County Courts Extension Bill* was considered in committee. On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, clauses were added to the following effect:—That the deputy judge shall not practise in districts where he acts as deputy; that the defendant may agree with the plaintiff about the debt, and enter a written agreement of the amount of the debt, on which the judge may adjudicate in the same manner as if he had tried the case in open court; that the clerk of each county court may select a jury when required, from a list of persons assessed for the poor at a rental of 20*l.*; that the treasury may have the power of ordering the judges, clerks, and other officers, to be paid by salaries instead of fees; also a clause to the effect that if a plaintiff or his attorney do not appear on the day of hearing, costs may be awarded to the defendant for his trouble.—A clause, proposed by Mr. CROWDER, to give the right of appeal in all cases exceeding 20*l.*, was rejected by 108 to 25.

Mr. EWART moved the committal of the *Public Libraries and Museums Bill*.—Colonel SIBTHORP said that he would much rather support a bill to encourage the amusements of peg-top, foot-ball, and cricket, and moved that the bill be committed that day six months. After much desultory talk the amendment was negatived by 87 to 21, and the house went into committee, but the chairman reported progress without any progress having been made.—The *Marriages Bill* was then proceeded with in committee, and the clauses were agreed to. Some debate took place on a motion by Colonel CHATTERTON that the bill should not extend to Ireland, which was rejected by 132 to 114.

The *Factory Bill*, as amended in the committee, came under consideration on Friday the 14th. Lord ASHLEY moved a clause to prevent the labour of children from being taken at any other time of the day than between six in the morning and six in the evening.—This amendment was resisted by Sir G. GREY on the ground that the bill did not relate to the labour of children; by Mr. BRIGHT on the ground that it would throw great masses of children out of employment; and by Mr. HUME on the ground that it would interfere with machinery and capital.—It was supported by Mr. Edwards, Lord R. Grosvenor, and Mr. W. J. Fox; and negatived by a majority of *one*, the numbers being 160 to 159.—Lord John MANNERS moved another amendment, to the effect of restricting the labour of *all* hands to ten hours daily. After a debate of some length, in which the amendment was opposed principally by Sir G. Grey and Lord John Russell, it was negatived by 187 to 142.

On Monday the 17th, the adjourned debate on the *Abolition of the Lieutenancy of Ireland* was resumed and concluded.—Sir R. PEEL expressed his willingness to support the measure as an experiment, though he had doubts as to its beneficial results. He advised the home secretary to take upon himself the functions of the proposed secretaryship for Ireland.—Mr. NAPIER opposed the bill, and said that Sir R. Peel's objections to the measure ought to have induced him to vote against the second reading of the bill, instead of for it.—Sir George GREY thought it desirable that the whole business of the secretary of state for home affairs should be managed by one man, and that the time might come when such an arrangement could be made, as in the case of Scotland, which for many years had a separate secretary of state; but this could not be accomplished at present.—Mr. SHEIL approved of the abolition of the vice-royalty, but contended that the government of Ireland ought not to be absorbed in the home office. The other speakers in favour of the bill were Mr. Sadleir, Lord Naas, and Colonel Thompson; against it, Mr. Roche, Mr. M'Cullagh, and Mr. Butler. The second reading was carried by 295 to 70.

On Tuesday the 18th, Mr. BRIGHT moved an address to the Crown, praying for the appointment of a commission to inquire into the means of promoting an increased growth of *Cotton in India*. He observed that the cotton trade employed nearly two millions of British population, and had a greater capital engaged in it than any other trade in the United Kingdom; that India was peculiarly calculated for the

growth of cotton, and that a judicious cultivation of it would confer immense advantages both on India and Great Britain.—Mr. Milner GIBSON seconded the motion, which was supported by Sir E. Colebrook and Mr. G. Thompson; and opposed by Sir John Hobhouse, Sir James Hogg, Mr. Newdegate, and Colonel Sibthorp. Mr. Bright withdrew the motion, conceiving that he had gained his object by the public attention being drawn to the subject.

Mr. FORSTER moved for leave to bring in a bill to repeal so much of the *Post Office Acts* as prohibit the transmission of letters on Sundays otherwise than through the Post Office. He observed that while the Post Office performed the duty, the restriction was necessary to protect the revenue, but that, the duty being no longer performed, the restriction ought to cease.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER and Lord John RUSSELL opposed the motion, which was negatived without a division.

On Wednesday the 19th, Mr. SOTHERON moved the second reading of the *Friendly Societies Bill*, the object of which is to consolidate the laws relative to these societies, and to give the members a control over their own funds, and protection against fraud. Some remarks were made by various members, all favourable to the bill, which was read a second time.

The *School Establishments* (Scotland) *Bill* was thrown out on the second reading by 100 to 94. It was supported by Lord Melgund and Mr. Fox Maule, but successfully opposed by Sir George Clark, Mr. Oswald, and Mr. C. Bruce, as interfering with the old established system of parochial schools.

On Thursday the 20th, Mr. ROEBUCK put the question to Lord John Russell whether the government would adopt any special course of conduct in consequence of the resolution passed in the House of Lords on the *Greek Question*.—Lord John RUSSELL had proceeded a little way in his answer, when he was called to order by Mr. D'ISRAELI, who said that a simple question had been asked, but the noble lord instead of giving a simple answer was entering upon a discussion.—Lord John RUSSELL replied that the question was a very general one, and that he must either make such a statement as should explain the line of conduct he meant to pursue, or remain altogether silent. Being loudly called upon to proceed, he said, in the first place, that the government were not going, in consequence of the resolution in question, to alter in any respect the course of conduct they had adopted in respect to foreign powers; and he went on to give his reasons for holding that the ministers were not called upon, in consequence of that resolution, to resign the government. Lord John added that if Mr. Roebuck wished to make a motion, he should have the earliest opportunity; and concluded, "So long as we continue the government of this country, I can answer for my noble friend (Lord Palmerston), that he will act, not as a minister of Austria, Russia, or France, or any other country, but as the minister of England." Lord John sat down amid general cheering. Some discussion ensued, in which Mr. D'Israeli and Mr. Roebuck took a part; and the result was that Mr. Roebuck gave notice of a motion on the subject, the debate on which was fixed for Monday following.

The *Mercantile Marine Bill* was read a second time, on the motion of Mr. Labouchere, though several members objected to proceeding with a bill on which so many alterations had been made at the eleventh hour. The second reading was agreed to on the understanding that the bill should be printed and re-committed.

The *Metropolitan Interments Bill* was read a third time and passed, after protests from Mr. Hume, Lord Dudley, Mr. Ellis, and Mr. G. Thompson, against the compensation provided by it for the clergy.

The *Factories Bill* was read a third time and passed, without a division, after some comments from several members on its details.

On the third reading of the *County Courts Bill*, Major Blackall moved a clause to enable Irish barristers of seven years' standing to be appointed judges of English county courts. After some discussion it was negatived by 111 to 58, and the bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. G. A. HAMILTON, on Friday the 21st, moved an address to the Queen praying for a modification of the existing system of *National Education in Ireland*. A debate of some length but little novelty followed. Mr. E. H. STANLEY defended with effect the system originated by his father, when Irish secretary, in 1831; and the existing system was also defended by Lord John Russell and Sir James Graham, the latter highly complimenting Mr. Stanley on his ability and eloquence. The amendment was negatived by 225 to 142.

On Monday the 24th, at the beginning of the evening, Sir Robert INGLIS noticed, in severe language, the "wanton if not premeditated insult" which his distinguished friend the Chevalier Bunsen had received in another place.—Lord John RUSSELL paid a warm tribute to the public and private character of the Chevalier Bunsen, but abstained from giving any opinion on the subject.

Mr. ROEBUCK then moved his resolution, "That the principles upon which the foreign policy of the government has been regulated have been calculated to maintain the honour and dignity of this country, and in times of unexampled difficulty to preserve peace between England and foreign nations." A government (he observed) when condemned by one branch of the legislature is unable to discharge its duties with honour, therefore it was necessary for the House of Commons to judge for itself, and express its own opinion. He went at great length into the foreign policy of England from 1790 to the present time, and proceeded to discuss the claims which gave rise to the dispute with Greece, contending that those claims were good and properly insisted on, and that the proceedings of the British government, for that purpose, had been correct and well-founded.—Sir F. THESIGER accused Mr. Roebuck of inconsistency, inasmuch as he had, in 1843, called Lord Palmerston a "lucifer match," while he now supported that minister's foreign policy. Sir F. Thesiger went over the different articles of the claims on Greece, contending that they afforded no ground for hostile aggression, and concluded by observing that Lord Palmerston had now been compelled to adopt the convention of London, which he had formerly repudiated, which was certainly not calculated to "maintain the honour and dignity of this country."—Mr. Page WOOD supported the motion.—Sir James GRAHAM criticised in great detail the foreign policy of Lord Palmerston, which he characterised as a course of minute interference with the affairs of our allies. He objected to the offensive tone of Lord Palmerston's despatches in the Greek affair, and contended that the London convention ought to have been adopted from the first, and England saved the mortification of having to adopt it after having repudiated it. He therefore refused to vote for the motion.

The debate was resumed on Tuesday the 25th. Mr. OSBORNE made some sarcastic comments on the conduct of Sir F. Thesiger and Sir James Graham, who for four years had not said a word against the system of policy they now affected to view with so much alarm. Sir J. Graham's professions of personal friendship for Lord Palmerston reminded him of those enormous serpents in South America who lubricated their victims with their slaver before devouring them. Tracing the history of the Greek kingdom, Mr. Osborne called it a contemptible state, which we had first to nurse and afterwards to teach good behaviour; and he put it to the house whether the inveterate hostility evinced towards Lord Palmerston was not owing to his being identified on the continent with responsible government and regarded as an advocate of liberal opinions. The dispute with Greece was a mere pretext: there was a company against Lord Palmerston which had extensive ramifications, and the reversal of his policy would cripple British commerce, arrest the progress of civilisation, and complete the humiliation of Great Britain.—Lord J. MANNERS denied both the propositions contained in the motion; and, taking a review of Lord Palmerston's policy in relation to various foreign states, contended that it had been injurious to the influence and the commerce of England.—Mr. ANSTEY said that as he neither entirely approved nor blamed our foreign policy, he would not vote either for or against the motion.—Lord PALMERSTON defended the foreign policy of the government in a speech of five

hours' length. He deemed the doctrine advanced on the other side, that British subjects in foreign lands were entitled to no protection but that of the laws and tribunals of the country in which they might happen to be, a doctrine on which no English minister had acted, and which the people of England would never suffer. He did not, however, mean that British subjects abroad were to be above the laws. They were bound, in the first place, to have recourse to the laws of the land in which they were; but there might be governments in which the tribunals were not of a character to inspire confidence. The present administration of government in Greece was full of abuses; the police inflicted revolting tortures upon both sexes, to which British subjects would be equally exposed, unless they had the protection of their own country. Lord Palmerston then detailed the injuries suffered by British subjects in Greece, and showed the reasonableness and moderation of the demands made for reparation. He entered very minutely into the dates and particulars of the recent negotiations connected with the question and the mediation of France, and corrected an erroneous impression which had got abroad that M. Gros had communicated to Mr. Wyse the convention of London, and that, with a knowledge of this convention, Mr. Wyse had renewed hostilities. He (Lord Palmerston) was sorry that the convention did not arrive at Athens until after the other arrangements had been made there; but this was not his fault, and the negotiations had not been put an end to by Mr. Wyse, but by M. Gros himself. The negotiations between the English and French government were now brought to a satisfactory conclusion, and such portions of the London convention as were still applicable would be adopted in place of the corresponding terms agreed to at Athens. Lord Palmerston then followed Sir James Graham over the wider field which had been taken, reviewing and vindicating the policy he had pursued, in relation to Belgium and Holland, Spain, France, Switzerland, and Italy, and concluded by challenging the verdict of the house, whether the principles which had guided the foreign policy of the government had been proper and fitting, and whether, as a subject of ancient Rome could hold himself free from indignity by saying, "Civis Romanus sum," a British subject in a foreign country should not be protected by the vigilant eye and the strong arm of his government against injustice and wrong.—The debate was then adjourned to Thursday.

The second reading of the *County Rates Bill* was moved on the 26th, by Sir Henry HALFORD, who justified it on the ground that the county rates although nominally paid by the occupier fell upon the owner, and that transferring them altogether to the owners would be a relief to the tenant farmers.—Mr. C. LEWIS and Mr. M. GIBSON opposed the bill on the ground that it would be unjust to the landlords. The bill was thrown out without a division.

On the third reading of the *Larceny Summary Jurisdiction Bill*, Sir G. STRICKLAND opposed the measure as too great an extension of summary jurisdiction. The house, he said, had already expressed its disinclination to go any further in taking away trial by jury from the people of this country.—Mr. Milnes and Mr. S. Crawford also opposed the bill, which was supported by Sir J. Pakington, Mr. Rice, Mr. Bankes, and Mr. Aglionby. The third reading was carried by 119 against 25, and the bill passed.

Mr. AGLIONBY moved the second reading of the *Copyholds Enfranchisement Bill*, and explained that its principle was to relieve copyhold lands from those incidents of the tenure, parts of the old feudal system, which were oppressive and created general dissatisfaction, due regard being paid to the rights and interests of the lord of the manor.—Mr. CHRISTOPHER opposed the bill as interfering with the rights of property.—Sir. G. GREY concurred in the principle of the bill; but as there were many difficulties in the matter, recommended that it should be read a second time and referred to a select committee. After some further discussion, the second reading was carried by 103 against 84.

The second reading of the *Accidents on Railways Bill* was moved by Mr. NEWDEGATE, who said that it was designed so to alter the law relative to the compensation for damages sustained through accidents on railways, as to render the companies more strictly liable for the acts of their servants. Mr. ELLIS said that the bill was founded on a single special case, in which the railway company had done all that was just under the circumstances, and moved the second reading that day six months. After a discussion in which the bill was supported by Mr. Adderley, Colonel Sibthorp and Mr. Spooner, and opposed by Mr. Labouchere, the Attorney-General, and Mr. Ricardo, the second reading was negatived by 108 against 53.

Mr. KEOGH brought in a bill to give further facilities to town commissioners for *the Improvement of Towns in Ireland.*

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—May 28th. Court of Common Pleas Fees Bill read a second time.—Report on Masters Jurisdiction in Equity Bill brought up and agreed to.

30th.—Administration of Criminal Justice Bill committed and ordered to be printed.

31st.—Royal assent given to Alterations in Pleadings Bill, West India Appeals Bill, and Defects in Leases Act Amendment Bill.—Sunday Fairs Prevention Bill, and Distress for Rent (Ireland) Bill, read a second time.—Sheriff of Westmoreland Bill read a first time.—Sunday Trading Prevention Bill recommitted and considered in Committee.—Australian Colonies Government Bill read a second time.

June 3rd.—Process and Practice (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill read a second time.—Fees (Court of Common Pleas) Bill passed through Committee.—Ecclesiastical Appeals Bill thrown out on second reading.

4th.—Sunday Trading Bill report agreed to.

6th.—Fees (Court of Chancery) Bill, and Sunday Fairs Prevention Bill, read a third time and passed.—Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill read a second time.

7th.—Administration of Criminal Justice Improvement Bill read a third time and passed.

10th.—Royal assent to Process and Practice (Ireland) Amendment Bill, Parish Constables Bill, Acts of Parliament Abbreviation Bill, and Sunday Fairs Prevention Bill.—Encumbered Estates (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill read a second time.

11th.—Australian Colonies Bill considered in Committee, and reported.

14th.—Court of Chancery Appeal Bill withdrawn by Lord Brougham.—Australian Colonies Bill considered in Committee, and reported.—Estates Leasing (Ireland) Bill, and Judgments (Ireland) Bill, passed through Committee.

17th.—Lord Stanley's motion on the Greek question carried against Ministers.—Judges of Assize Bill read a second time.

18th.—Encumbered Estates (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill passed.—Distress for Rent (Ireland) Bill read a second time.—Landlord and Tenant Bill, and Small Tenements Recovery Bill, read a third time and passed.

24th.—The Small Tenements Recovery (Ireland) Bill, Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Bill, and Public-houses (Scotland) Bill, passed through Committee.—The Drainage and Improvement of Land Advances Bill was read a second time.

25th.—Royal assent given to a number of bills.—Sheriff of Westmoreland Bill read a third time and passed.—Leasehold Tenure of Land (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill considered in Committee.

House of Commons.—May 28th. Mr. Miles moved a resolution respecting the emigration of orphan girls—House counted out.

30th (morning sitting).—Elections (Ireland) Bill read a third time, and clause added. (Evening sitting.)—Exchequer Bills Bill read a third time and passed.—Lord Ashley's resolution for suppressing of Sunday Post Office labour carried.—Elections (Ireland) Bill passed.—Jews Oath of Abjuration Bill read a first time.

31st.—Sir Edward Buxton's resolution against exposing British colonial sugar to competition with slave-grown sugar negatived.—Court of Session (Scotland) Bill, and Police and Improvement (Scotland) Bill, read a third time and passed.

June 3rd.—Metropolitan Interments Bill considered in Committee.

4th.—Irish Poor-law, Mr. French's resolutions negatived.—Tenant's Recovery (Ireland) Bill thrown out on second reading.—Process and Practice (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill read a third time and passed.

5th.—Secular Education Bill thrown out on second reading.—Weights and Measures Bill committed *pro formâ*.—Titles of Religious Congregations Bill read a third time.

6th.—Factories Bill, and Metropolitan Interments Bill considered in Committee.—Municipal Corporations (Ireland) Bill read a third time and passed.—General Board of Health Bill, and Judges of Assize Bill, read a second time.—Bill brought in for Census of the Population.

7th.—Drainage and Improvement of Land Advances Bill considered in Committee.—Metropolitan Interments Bill forwarded in Committee.

10th.—Sunday Labour in Post Office, the Queen's answer to address.—Mr. Hume's motion to reduce the vote for the New Houses of Parliament, and for a select committee, negatived.—Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Bill read a second time.—Census Bill read a first time.

11th.—Metropolitan Interments Bill further considered in Committee.—Margate Harbour, motion for Select Committee carried.—Resolution as to levying duty on bonded spirits carried.—Bill to confirm Incorporation of certain Boroughs, read a first time.

12th.—Landlord and Tenant Bill considered in Committee.—Court of Chancery Bill read a second time.

13th.—County Court Extension Bill, and Marriages Bill, considered in Committee and reported.

14th.—Factories Bill, Metropolitan Interments Bill, and Marriages Bill, considered in Committee.

17th.—Lord Lieutenancy (Ireland) Abolition Bill read a second time.—Landlord and Tenant Bill, and Borough Courts of Record (Ireland) Bill, reported.

18th.—Incorporation of Boroughs Amendment Bill (No. 2) read a second time.—County Courts Extension Bill went through Committee.

19th.—School Establishment (Scotland) Bill thrown out on second reading.—Friendly Societies Bill read a second time.

20th.—Mercantile Marine Bill read a third time, to be recommitted.—Metropolitan Interments Bill, and Factories Bill, read a third time and passed.—Court of Exchequer (Ireland) Bill read a second time.—Charitable Trusts Bill considered in Committee.—County Courts Extension Bill read a third time and passed.—Railway Audit Bill laid aside, with a view of bringing in another.

24th.—The Prussian Minister's Residence Bill, as amended, was considered.—The General Board of Health Bill and the Court of Chancery Bill were read a third time and passed.

June 26th.—County Rates Bill thrown out on second reading.—Larceny Summary Jurisdiction Bill read a third time and passed.—Copyholds Enfranchisement Bill read a second time.—Accidents on Railways Bill thrown out on second reading.—Bill for Improvement of Towns in Ireland, brought in by Mr. Keogh.

THERE was a grand *Protectionist Demonstration* at Liverpool on the 6th;—a meeting in the Royal Amphitheatre, attended by between 2000 or 3000 persons admitted by ticket. The Earl of Wilton presided; a number of well-known protectionist champions were on the platform; and there were delegates from counties and agricultural towns, from sea-ports and from manufacturing towns, by way of representing the various branches of industry. The oratory was abundant, the meeting having lasted eleven hours; but the speeches and resolutions were of the usual character on such occasions.

The *Tenant Right* movement is spreading in Ireland, and several large meetings on the subject have been held within these few weeks. At one of them, held at Navan, on the banks of the Boyne, on the 30th of May, ten thousand tenant farmers are stated to have been present, Protestant as well as Roman Catholic.

Another meeting of great importance was held at Belfast on the 12th inst. The Music Hall was crowded with substantial farmers from all parts of Ulster; and Presbyterian ministers joined with Roman Catholic priests in the business of the meeting. Resolutions were passed of which the leading points were: the rights of the tenantry to profit by their own improvements, past, present, and future; their right, founded on ancient custom, to a continued occupation of their lands at a fair rent; and the approval of the proposed tenant right conference in Dublin, and the formation of a tenant league for all Ireland.

The Roman Catholic Primate has received a communication from the Vatican declaring that Romish clergymen cannot hold office in, or be instrumental in advancing the Queen's Colleges in Ireland, and prohibiting the Roman Catholic laity from sending their children to those colleges.

Some interesting parliamentary returns, relating to the convict system, have been printed. In England and Wales in 1847, 51 convicts were sentenced to death, 60 in 1848, and 69 in 1849, while in 1847, 2,806 were sentenced to transportation, 3,251 in 1848, and 2,844 in 1849. In Scotland only 11 were sentenced to death in the three years, 1,180 were sentenced to transportation, and 5,206 to imprisonment. In Ireland, in 1847, 25 persons were sentenced to death, 2,185 to transportation, and 11,221 to imprisonment. In 1848 the number in Ireland was 60 sentenced to death, 2,698 to transportation, and 12,968 to imprisonment; whilst in 1849 the number sentenced to death was 38, to transportation 3,050, and to imprisonment 15,443. In England and Wales the sums paid by the Treasury for food, &c., for convicts and misdemeanants in the year ending the 30th of September, 1847, amounted to 95,932*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, in the following year to 81,954*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, and last year to 75,167*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, besides 19,353*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* last year for transports in gaols. In Scotland the expense paid by the Treasury for food, &c., was 10437*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* last year, and in Ireland it was 9,792*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*

A return has been printed, giving some useful information respecting *Savings Banks and Friendly Societies* as to the amount of "loss of interest sustained by the public." In the year ending the 20th of November, 1844, the excess of interest paid to the trustees of savings-banks and friendly societies by the National Debt Commissioners above that received by them, was 112,235*l.* 15*s.*; in 1845, 36,537*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*; in 1846, 35,420*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*; in 1847, 36,553*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*; in 1848, 48,663*l.* 10*s.*; and in 1849, 57,592*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* From the 20th of November, 1844, the rate of interest payable to savings-banks was reduced from 3*l.* 16*s.* to 3*l.* 5*s.* per cent. per annum.

Between the 15th and the 20th, thirty-one new *Petitions for the Sale of Irish Encumbered Estates* were lodged. Several of the inheritors in this list are petitioners in their own cases. The total number of petitioners is now 978. At this rate of progress, the commissioners, before the end of the summer, would have more estates to sell than they could dispose of in four years. They are, however, preparing for vigorous operations after the recess. Within the week ending on the 19th, no less than fifty-two conditional or absolute orders for sales were pronounced.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

THE proverb "*Murder will out*," has just been strikingly illustrated. Stephen Carlin, a beast-jobber, residing near Skipton, in Yorkshire, was last seen alive at Pateley-bridge, in company with his partner (a cousin), eleven or twelve years ago. His cousin said that he had gone to America, but foul play was always suspected; and on Saturday the 25th of May, a digger of peat on Roggin-moor, near Pateley-bridge, found the body of the missing man, a few feet below the surface in such a state of preservation (owing to the antiseptic nature of the soil) that it was readily identified. A tailor, too, knew the clothes to be Carlin's; and a married woman, whom he had wooed in her maidenhood, recognised as her property a handkerchief and comb that were found in the pockets. The cousin, Jonathan Bland, was apprehended at Skipton two days afterwards.

The *Earl of Lincoln's Divorce Bill* was read a second time in the House of Lords, on the 28th of May. Lord Lincoln, the son and heir of the Duke of Newcastle, was married, in 1832, to Lady Susan Hamilton, only daughter of the Duke of Hamilton. They lived together up to August 1848, and had five children. In that month Lady Lincoln went to the continent without her husband's leave, but ostensibly to consult the German physicians about her health. On the continent it was soon found that she was constantly accompanied by Lord Walpole, eldest son of the Earl of Orford. While it was believed that her conduct amounted only to indiscretion, Mr. Gladstone, M.P., as the friend of both parties, went in search of her. After some time he discovered that she was living near Como, under the assumed name of Mrs. Lawrence, but found it impossible to obtain access to her. She gave birth to a son at Como, in August 1849, who could not have been her husband's, and was christened by the name of Horatio Walpole. These, and other circumstances, establishing her criminality, were proved by evidence before the house, and it was stated by her solicitor that she had given instructions that there should be no opposition to the bill.

In October 1848, a small deal box, labelled "Mr. Watson, passenger, Exeter," was found on the railway platform at Slough. No one applied for it, and after a time it was sent to London to the "lost property" department. On the 1st instant the box was opened, and was found to contain the *Mummy of a Child*, supposed to be a girl, about eighteen months old. The corpse was quite shrivelled up; round the neck was tied a cambric handkerchief; attempts had been made to separate the limbs, and there were other mutilations. No arsenic was detected by analysis. A coroner's jury

has returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown.

At the Surrey sessions, on the 1st instant, Lucy Fore, the wife of a respectable tradesman in good circumstances, was convicted of *Shop-lifting*. She had desired to be shown some silk handkerchiefs in a draper's shop, and endeavoured to secrete and carry away some pieces of silk, but was detected by the shopman. She was sentenced to four months' hard labour at Guildford.

On the 1st instant a labouring man of the name of Taylor, living at the village of Tushingham in Cheshire, *Murdered his own Son*, a boy of seven years old. Some of the man's younger children complained to the neighbours that their brother was ill, and that they were shut out and could not get to him. On looking through a window one of the neighbours discovered the boy lying on the floor weltering in his blood. An entrance was forced into the house, and it was ascertained that the skull of the child had been split with an axe. Taylor was found upstairs in bed, and immediately accused of the murder. He was sullen, but after a coroner's inquest was held, he confessed himself guilty, and was committed for trial. Although in very poor circumstances, it does not appear that absolute want drove him to commit the crime, nor did he assign any motive for it. His wife stated that he had for some time past carried a rope in his pocket for the declared purpose of hanging himself.

The proceedings of a coroner's inquest, held on the 3rd, at University College hospital, on the body of Ann Truscott, a young woman who had poisoned herself, were disturbed by the *Disgraceful Conduct of a number of Medical Students*. During the examination of the witnesses, they entered the inquest room in a body, and behaved so rudely that the coroner had to send for the police to clear the apartment. The students again forced their way into the room, and a repetition of the former scene took place. The coroner adjourned the inquest till the evening. When the jury reassembled there were about twenty students present, who, on the coroner's desiring strangers to leave the room, took their departure, but only to recommence a new course of annoyance, by constantly ringing a large bell in the room which communicated with the front door of the hospital. The jury added to their verdict an expression of their great disapprobation of "the gross conduct of a number of the students of University College hospital," and their wish that the fact should be made known to the heads of the institution.

A man of the name of Reynolds, who lived in Yarmouth, had been for some time separated from his wife. He met her accidentally on the 4th, and after some abusive words, attacked her savagely with a clasp-knife, cutting her on the neck, hands, and arms. She contrived to escape with life, on which he *cut his Throat* with the knife, and threw himself into the sea. An inquest on the body returned a verdict of felo de se, and the corpse was buried by torchlight.

The *Gorham Case* has now been brought before the Court of Exchequer. On the 6th Mr. Fitzroy Kelly, on behalf of the Bishop of Exeter, made the same application which had been successively refused by the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas—namely, a rule calling on Mr. Gorham to show cause why the Court of Arches should not be prohibited from proceeding further in giving him possession of the living of Bramford Speke. Mr. Kelly spoke for five hours in support of his motion.—On the 11th the Lord Chief Baron intimated that the court were by no means prepared to differ from the other courts to whom a similar application had been made; but, that so important a case might receive due consideration, they would grant a rule, cause to be shown on the 29th and from day to day till the case was disposed of.

In the Bankruptcy Court, on the 7th, *W. Chittenden*, a draper at Paddington, passed his examination. The bankrupt, a very young man, had been only about a fortnight in business. His debts were 2800*l*., of which 2000*l*. owing to trade creditors were secured by bills given by Mr. Tarlington, the landlord of the bankrupt's premises. This Mr. Tarlington was a retired tradesman, who had devoted his capital to building purposes, and had erected a number of houses that were known by the description of Tarlington-place and Tarlington-street, and the houses that the bankrupt had occupied. In consequence of the flourishing representations of the bankrupt, in October last, of his ability to establish a business on a monstrous scale, he had let the bankrupt five houses at a rental of 1050*l*. per year, on a lease for twenty-one years. To adapt the premises for such a business, Mr. Tarlington had expended between October 1849 and March 1850, a sum of 1000*l*. The bankrupt had represented to Mr. Tarlington that he had saved 100*l*. as a draper's assistant; that he was on the point of being married, and that his intended father-in-law would advance him 300*l*.; also that his father, who resided at Tonbridge, would become his security for 1500*l*. Mr. Tarlington, who had but a slight previous acquaintance with the bankrupt, was induced by these representations to assist him with his bills to the amount of 2000*l*. to purchase stock. In fact, as Mr. Commissioner Fane remarked, it appeared that the retired tradesman had retired from his senses. But Mr. Tarlington, soon having reason to suspect that all was not right, took steps that stopped the bankrupt's brief career. The bankrupt, who was opposed on the part of Mr. Tarlington, denied that gentleman's representations, and alleged that Mr. Tarlington had rather persuaded him to take the five houses and enter upon the monster business in the manner stated, than he had persuaded Mr. Tarlington. The commissioner said that, as Mr. Tarlington had conducted his business so loosely in treating with a boy like the bankrupt, he ought to be content to lie down under his own folly. He therefore passed the bankrupt's examination, reserving all questions of conduct for the certificate meeting.

Robert Kemp, a clerk of the Charing Cross coal company, *Committed Suicide* on the 8th, by throwing himself on the line of the South Western railway near Wimbledon, in front of the train from Southampton, which went over his body and dashed him in pieces. A verdict of temporary insanity was given.

Elizabeth Ann Chambers, a lady-like person of forty, was tried on the 8th at the central Criminal Court, for *Forging an Acceptance* to a 300*l*. bill, with intent to defraud. She had attached the name of her cousin, the Rev. Charles Randolph, to a bill which she got discounted. The evidence was conclusive. The prisoner had no counsel. She said that Mr. Randolph, though he had denied it, had given her permission to use his name. Verdict, "Guilty." A second indictment for forging a 200*l*. bill was not proceeded with; the convict would seem to have repeatedly offended. Mr. Baron Rolfe, in passing sentence of transportation for life, remarked, that the prisoner was no doubt well aware that a few years ago her life might have been forfeited for the act she had committed; but as the legislature had made the experiment of remitting the capital punishment in the expectation that the crime might be repressed without resorting to it, he considered that the law ought not to be trifled with, lest unhappily it might be found necessary to re-establish the former punishment affixed to the crime.

Richard McAllister, a man of rather shabby appearance, was charged at the Marylebone police court on the 10th, with having been near the house of Miss Bellew, Primrose-hill road, for an *Unlawful Purpose*. The man had been Miss Bellew's footman, and was in the habit of saying to his fellow-servants and others, that his mistress was in love with him. This coming to her ears, she discharged him, and since then he has persecuted her with importunities and threats of violence, pretending she owes him money, and that she had encouraged his passion. During the investigation, Miss Bellew, who told her own story, was in a state of great excitement, while McAllister insisted that the lady had promised to marry him and none but him, with more to the same purpose. He was held to bail to keep the peace to Miss Bellew and her household for a month and sent to prison in default of sureties. On hearing the decision, Miss Bellew exclaimed with great agitation, "I am surprised, sir, that you have only secured this man for a month—at the end of that time we shall all be shot."

In the Bankruptcy Court judgment was given on the 11th, in the case of *Edward Thomas Delafield*, the late lessee of the Royal Italian Opera. Mr. Commissioner Fane after detailing the circumstances of the case, which are

generally known to the public, observed that two charges, on public grounds, had been made against the bankrupt; recklessly extravagant expenditure, and undue preference given by him on the eve of bankruptcy. As to the first it appeared that Mr. Delafield's personal expenditure from November 1845 to July 1849, the time of the bankruptcy, was less than 5000*l.* a year; now that was not reckless expenditure in a person of 7000*l.* a year. In regard to the second charge, some allowance ought to be made for the bankrupt's extreme youth; some for the circumstance that he could hardly be deemed a trader; some for the deception of which he had been the victim, and some for the greatness of the ruin which had befallen him, and which was itself a punishment. The circumstances afforded no ground for withholding a certificate, or for attaching to it (as had been demanded) a condition that he should pay 10*s.* in the pound out of future assets. I confess (said the commissioner) I have no inclination to attach such a condition to a certificate in any case. I refused to do so in Jullien's. The world of industry in which we live is one in which every man not living on accommodation is struggling for a subsistence. In that struggling it is difficult enough for any one to win his way, even with character clear and something to begin with. What, then, may be expected to be the fate of one who not only begins with nothing, but is weighed down by the stain of bankruptcy, and by an unpaid debt of 10*s.* in the pound on 33,000*l.*? I see nothing for a person so burdened but to lie down in hopeless despair, and abandon all future exertion. Were the faults of this bankrupt far greater than they are, I would not condemn him to such a fate. It may be said that this bankrupt has rich relations. Perhaps he has; but if it were true, this argument is one which will never weigh with me. I will never be a party to the establishing of any such doctrine that rich relations are under any obligation to pay the debts of extravagant connections. A contrary doctrine is a far more wholesome one. It is better to lay it down that a creditor shall not have means of pressure, direct or indirect, upon rich relations, and thus check the giving credit to the young and foolish. On the whole, he concluded, I think, upon full consideration of all the circumstances, that I shall best discharge my public duty by granting the bankrupt a common certificate, without attaching any condition. I hope that the terrible lesson he has received may be of use to him in after life. An unconditional certificate was granted accordingly.

On the same day the application of William Pownall, a silk manufacturer at Macclesfield, for a certificate, was opposed on the ground of fraudulent *Concealment of Property;* and the bankrupt admitted on examination that he had concealed several quantities of silk, with the object of enabling himself to offer a composition of 8*s.* in the pound. The bankrupt's certificate was suspended for two years, without protection, till he should have been six months in prison.

Two boys, named Hill and Kempton, said in the calender to be fifteen, but looking much younger, were convicted on the 12th, at the central Criminal Court, of *Stealing a bowl with a quantity of Silver* from the bar of a publican at Greenwich. The charge was proved by the publican's daughter, an intelligent child, who had detected the theft and given the alarm. It appeared that this was Hill's sixth conviction for robbing tills, and he had just come out of Maidstone Gaol. The other boy also belonged to an organised gang. Hill was sentenced to transportation for seven years, with a view to his being admitted into Parkhurst prison, and Kempton was ordered to be imprisoned for three months and once whipped.

Charles Thorogood, a lad of about fourteen, and William Appleby, a respectable master-bootmaker, were tried at the central Criminal Court on the 13th; the former for *Stealing Two Heads of Broccoli*, valued at threepence, and the latter for receiving the same. The boy, who is in the employment of a market-gardener at Enfield, had sold from his master's cart the two heads of broccoli to Mr. Appleby, who bought and paid for them at his own door, without any concealment; nevertheless both parties were committed for trial by the Enfield bench of magistrates. The jury acquitted both the prisoners, and the Recorder said he should not allow the expenses, as the county ought not to be at the expense of such a prosecution.

Colonel Craigie, a retired officer of the Bengal army, *Committed Suicide* on the 14th at his house in Exeter. Not appearing in the morning to breakfast, and not answering when called by Mrs. Craigie, his bedroom door was forced open, and he was found lying on the floor in a pool of blood, his throat cut, and with frightful wounds in his belly and both his legs. He was breathing when found, but died in less than an hour. No cause is assigned for this dreadful deed.

William Anderson, a hairdresser, pleaded guilty, at the central Criminal Court, on the 18th, of stealing thirty sovereigns, twenty half-sovereigns, and a 10*l.* note. He was sentenced to *Eighteen Months Imprisonment.* Unable to believe his ears, at an announcement so unexpectedly agreeable, he exclaimed, "Eighteen years, my lord?" "No; eighteen months," was the common serjeant's reply. The prisoner made a bow, and got out of the dock with great expedition.

Ashby's *Divorce Bill* was disposed of on the 18th, by the House of Lords. The Rev. Edward Queenby Ashby was married in 1842 to Elizabeth Sophia Palmer, then under age. They lived on affectionate terms at Mr. Ashby's living, in Buckinghamshire, till 1848, when they went to Madeira, in consequence of Mrs. Ashby's delicate state of health. Their fellow-passenger was Mr. Scudamore Stanhope, between whom, and the lady, a criminal intimacy took place. Though Mrs. Ashby's conduct had been the topic of conversation at Madeira, her husband did not ascertain the extent of her guilt till they were on their homeward voyage, still accompanied by Mr. Stanhope, when Mr. Ashby accidentally picked up a letter, which his wife had dropped, addressed to Mr. Stanhope. It commenced,—"My own, own, own, for ever doated on, idolised, treasured treasure, treasured Henry;" and contained expressions which left no room for doubt. This discovery having taken place, Mrs. Ashby left the vessel at Cadiz, and Mr. Ashby proceeded to England. In a few weeks Mrs. Ashby arrived at Southampton, from whence she eloped with her paramour. —Sir George Cockburn, examined in addition to the evidence taken on previous occasions, deposed that before Mr. and Mrs. Ashby left Madeira, he had advised Mr. Ashby not to return in the same vessel with Mr Stanhope; but that his advice had proceeded from rumours he had heard and not from his own knowledge of Mrs. Ashby's criminality; and the Dean of Ely, who was residing in the island at the time, stated that he was in habit of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Ashby, who lived upon affectionate terms, and that he was quite unaware that any improper intimacy existed between Mrs. Ashby and Mr. Stanhope.—Lord Brougham said, that though there was reason to suppose that Mr. Ashby's conduct had been too lenient, yet it had been shown that he had great affection for his wife, and was unwilling to drive her by any harsh means into the arms of her lover. On his lordship's motion, the bill was read a second time.

The gang of swindlers who have of late committed so many depredations by means of *Mock Agency Offices*, were tried at the central Criminal Court on the 18th. Their names are Sydney Robert Sparks, Charles Stanley, Edward Wright, and James Campbell, all young men, of the appearance called shabby-genteel. They commenced their joint operations about Christmas last, by opening an office in Upper Wellington Street, under the firm of "Wright & Co., Loan Office, General Registry and Investment Company, Auctioneers, &c.," and successively opened other places of the same kind, under different names, in Exeter Arcade, Brownlow Street, Adam Street, Great Queen Street, Kingsgate Street, and Cavendish Square. At these various places they were found acting in concert, and by means of advertisements, got many young men to place in their hands sums varying from five pounds to fifty. They then employed their dupes for a short time, by sending them long distances to inquire after houses, &c. to let; and the end was that the victim could neither get any salary nor recover his money. Several of these victims were examined, and each had the same melancholy story to tell. They were found guilty. Edward Wright, the father of the prisoner in the previous case, was then put to the bar, along with one James, on a similar charge

to the preceding. This Edward Wright, sen., appears to have been the father of the system, which he has carried on for more than twenty years. He pleaded guilty, and James was convicted by the jury. Sentence was then passed on the whole. Wright the elder, James, Campbell, and Stanley, eighteen months imprisonment with hard labour; but as it appeared that Sparks had not taken any money, and that Wright, jun., had acted under the guidance of a bad father, the period of their imprisonment was limited to twelve months.

Lord Dunboyne was tried in the Court of Queen's Bench on the 19th, on the charge of making *A False Statement in the Register of His Marriage.* In August, 1842, Lord Dunboyne was privately married, at Paddington Church, to Mrs. Vincent Vaughan, a well-endowed young widow, with prospects of increased fortune, living at Bell Hatch, in the county of Oxford. The marriage was private because it was opposed to the wishes of Mrs. Vaughan's mother, to whose wealth she would succeed if she did not alienate her regards. The opposition made to Lady Dunboyne's marriage by her mother wore off, and the parties were married again at St. George's, Hanover Square, in December, 1843; and on this occasion, just as on the former one, the parties were described as widower and widow, though then man and wife. This false description was the offence. Lord Campbell instructed the jury, that they must be "satisfied that the representation had been made falsely, fraudulently, and corruptly;" a conclusion which there would be some difficulty in coming to, as the defendant had no motive to injure anybody by his act. Such marriages are highly irregular, but very common, especially among Roman Catholics: it is difficult to see how on a second marriage a man can describe himself except by his description before the marriage. The jury found a verdict of Not Guilty.

Walter Watts, tried at the Central Criminal Court on the 10th of May, on the charge of stealing a cheque for 1400*l.*, belonging to his employers, the Globe Insurance Company, was convicted on one of the counts of the indictment, of "stealing a piece of paper," the point of law being reserved whether this was sufficient to constitute a criminal charge. On the 22nd instant Lord Chief Justice Wilde delivered the judgment, *Affirming the Conviction.*

An action was tried in the Court of Common Pleas at Dublin, on the 22nd, at the instance of the London and Dublin Bank against Mr. Clements, a young military officer, for payment of a bill for 1000*l.*, purporting to be drawn by a person of the name of Joel and accepted by Mr. Clements. When this bill was afterwards discovered to be in the hands of the Bank, Mr. Clements pronounced it *a Forgery*, and Joel was subsequently tried at the Old Bailey in January last, convicted of the forgery and sentenced to transportation. Notwithstanding this, the Bank pursued Mr. Clements for payment of the consideration given by them for the bill. Judge Ball, in his charge to the jury, told them that they were not to be influenced by the fact which had come out in the course of the trial, that Joel had been found guilty by another tribunal of the forgery of the bill; and the jury found a verdict in favour of the Bank, for 700*l.*, with sixpence costs.

A deliberate suicide was committed on the 22nd, by *a Child Seven Years old*, the son of John Hanson, a waterman, residing at Newark. The boy having been beaten by his mother, had threatened that if she did so again he would drown himself, and carried his threat into execution, by walking resolutely into the Trent till the stream carried him away.

On Sunday the 23rd, early in the morning, a respectable-looking middle-aged man was observed to throw himself from the centre arch of Southwark bridge. In his fall his head was seen to strike against one of the abutments with a force which must have shattered his skull. His body has not been found.

An instance of the misery caused by the practice adopted by the Irish parochial authorities, of *Getting Rid of their Poor* by sending them to England in a destitute state, was exhibited at the Southwark Police Court, on the 25th, when three little Irish boys, found lying on the steps of a house in the Borough, were brought before the magistrate. They were almost unacquainted with English, but the eldest of them was able to answer the magistrate's questions. Mr. A'Becket (to the eldest boy): Where have you come from? From the county of Cork. What place? Dunmanway. I was in the workhouse there. Mr. A'Becket: Why did you leave that place? Boy: Because Mr. Hamilton, one of the gentlemen there, said that I would get plenty of work and victuals if I left the workhouse and came over to England. Mr. A'Beckett: Who paid for your passage? Boy: Mr. Hamilton, I believe, paid the money. Mr. A'Beckett: Were there any more boys sent away from the workhouse with you? Boy: Yes, Sir; there were 21 boys picked out, and we were all put on board the ship and brought over here as deck passengers. Mr. A'Beckett: Did they supply you with food while on board? Boy: Yes, Sir, we had some bread given to us, but nothing else besides water. Mr. A'Beckett: Where have you been living since you came to London? Boy: In no house, Sir. We tried to get work, but could not find any one to employ us, and so we have been wandering about the town, sleeping sometimes under the arches of the railway, and at other times on the steps of houses near the water-side. The magistrate, after commenting on the conduct of the Irish parish officers, directed that the boys should be taken to the workhouse of the parish in which they were found destitute, that they might be relieved and passed over to Ireland.

An *Atrocious Attack on Her Majesty* was made shortly after six o'clock on the evening of the 27th. The Queen, accompanied by a lady in waiting and the royal children, had been to inquire respecting the health of the Duke of Cambridge, at his residence, in Piccadilly. A man was observed loitering about for some time, keeping his eye directed towards the entrance at which the royal carriage would come out, when on reaching the end of the road from the house, the villain deliberately aimed a blow at her Majesty with a light cane, which he held in his hand, striking her on the cheek, and crushing her bonnet over her forehead, which caused a great sensation to the bystanders. The fellow was instantly seized by the persons on the spot, and the weapon wrested from him. Her Majesty then immediately proceeded to Buckingham Palace. The police were quickly on the spot, and took him in charge, and conveyed him to the Vine Street station. Upon being placed before Inspector Whall, he gave his name Robert Pate, 27, Duke Street, St. James's. He assigned no reason for the act; said he had been a lieutenant in the Tenth Hussars. The charge was then entered as follows:—"Charged with assaulting Her Majesty on leaving Cambridge House." He was then locked up. Her Majesty arrived at the palace perfectly safe, and apparently little alarmed at the outrageous assault that had been committed on her. In a short time, however, the news had spread to the various club-houses, and the noblemen and others there assembled instantly hastened to the royal residence to ascertain, if possible, whether Her Majesty had sustained injury. However, she appeared at the Royal Italian Opera in the evening, and presented herself in the front of her box perfectly unharmed. Her reception by the audience was something more than enthusiastic; it was affecting—many shed tears.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

MELANCHOLY accounts have been brought, by recent arrivals from the Atlantic, of the *Destruction of Ships by floating Icebergs.* One of these catastrophes was witnessed, on the 27th of April, by the Oriental, of Liverpool. The Oriental was then beset by ice, and saw another vessel a few miles off in a most perilous condition, stove in by the ice, and sinking. For two days she was seen in the same forlorn condition, when she suddenly disappeared, and very little doubt is entertained of every soul having gone down in the foundered vessel. Subsequently a great many bodies were seen intermingled with the ice, together with some portions of the cargo, from which it was discovered that she was from Londonderry bound for Quebec. The Oriental was eleven days before she got entirely clear of the ice.

Another similar catastrophe was witnessed on the 29th

of March, by the ship Signet of Alloa. The vessel was apparently an English brig, heavily laden. She went down, and all on board perished. Among other vessels lost from the same cause, down to the middle of May, are, the Ostensible, from Liverpool, for Quebec; the Conservator and the Acorn, both of Liverpool; the Hibernia, from Glasgow, for Quebec; the British schooner Collector, from St. John's, Newfoundland, for London; the brig Astree, of Weymouth; the Wilhelmina, of Aberdeen; the Goswell, of Newcastle; the Sylph, of Leith, and three others, the names of which are unknown. With the exception of these last, the crews were saved. Most of the unfortunate vessels were heavily laden, and these losses in total are estimated at nearly 100,000*l*.

A Remarkable Shipwreck is related in the West India papers. The sloop Star, Captain Robertson, was near Battawya, in the island of St. Vincent, on the 3rd of May, when it was discovered that a plank in her bottom had started, and that, notwithstanding every effort, she could not be saved from going down. The captain, a young gentleman named Bynoe, a Miss Webb, a Mrs. Gibbs with a boy, her nephew, were upon deck. Several of the sailors leaped overboard. Mrs. Gibbs clasped her young nephew to her breast, declaring loudly that he was the cause of her being there, and that if she was lost, he should go with her. The captain tried to induce Miss Webb to leap overboard with him, and took her hand; but she could not be persuaded to venture, and he jumped overboard alone, followed by Mr. Bynoe. The rest must be told in that young gentleman's own words:—"As soon as I quitted the vessel, which I did at the same time as the captain, and some two or three minutes after the others, I struck out for the dog-house. The sloop instantly sunk; Miss Webb, Mrs. Gibbs and her nephew, going down with her. There was a little moonlight. A female passenger and her husband had hold of the dog-house. I observed a little boy floating, and I swam and took him to the dog-house. The current was strong and we made little progress, and I was obliged to go behind the dog-house to push it on. As this exhausted me and many held on, I let go, which gave the others more room. I then laid hold of an oar and used it for a short time; but I thought I heard something blow beside me like a whale or porpoise, and I became alarmed and threw away the oar, determined to swim. Before leaving my companions in misery, I told them I would swim to Bequia and send them a boat, that if it came it would be a sign I was alive; if not, that I was drowned. They implored me not to leave them, because I cheered them up. I now undressed myself in the water, not keeping on a vestige of clothing, and struck out with the greatest confidence in my power of endurance and swimming. Battawya was at this time just discernible. We were about five miles from it, and fifteen or sixteen miles from Bequia. It was four o'clock in the morning. The captain called to me, and I replied. I have since heard that he called me an hour afterwards, and, as I did not reply, all gave me up as lost, as a very heavy sea was running at the time. I remained in the water until three or four in the afternoon, swimming all the time, at which time I reached Bequia. I was alongside the rock an hour before I could ascend it. The surf and heavy swells sometimes dashed me against the rock and at others drew me away from it. I twice despaired, and placed my hands on my head; but I could not sink. I was completely exhausted, and suffered much in trying to land. I remained fifty hours on the Bequia rock without food, water, rest, or clothes. I tried to eat a small shell-fish, but it made me sick. I was very thirsty, but I found relief in sea-bathing. Altogether I was sixty-two hours deprived of every necessary of life. While on the rock I hailed some vessels and boats, but was not heard. At length the Caledonia sloop passed by; I hailed her, and she sent a boat for me. I had determined to attempt the next day to that on which I was relieved to swim to Bequia harbour, rather than die slowly. The bruises and cuts you see I got in attempting to land on the rock. I feel no inward ill effects from my sufferings. I was like a skeleton when I landed. The crew and passengers of the Star who were saved were brought to St. Vincent by the Emily Strath, which picked them up." Much surprise and rejoicings were manifested at St. Vincent when it was reported that Mr. Bynoe had been landed from the Caledonia.

On the evening of the 30th of May, Mr. Thomas Lang of Bristol *Nearly Perished while crossing the Dangerous Sands* between Hayle and St. Ives. The horse of his carriage suddenly disappeared in a quicksand, and he felt the carriage rapidly sinking. He sprang from his seat and with much difficulty succeeded in struggling to firm ground. The horse and carriage were rescued by the aid of about twenty men who had seen the accident from a distance. Had it happened after dark, or when the tide was flowing, escape would have been hopeless.

Mr. Robert Dundas Jones, a solicitor, *Poisoned Himself* with prussic acid on the evening of the 30th of May. It appeared, at the inquest, that he had several bills of exchange unpaid, and that one, of considerable amount, had been presented for payment on the morning of his death. The jury found that he had died from the effects of poison, but that there was not sufficient evidence to prove the state of his mind.

On June 5th, *Eleven Men and Two Boys were Killed* in the colliery of Little Usworth, near Washington, by the explosion of a quantity of gas accumulated in a natural reservoir or hollow. The accident was caused by firing a blasting charge of gunpowder.

As Mr. Samuel Rogers the poet was returning home, on the evening of the 6th, from dining with a friend, he was *Knocked down by a Cab* in crossing the street, and seriously injured, but has nearly recovered, we are happy to understand, from the effects of the accident.

On the 8th, Mr Sibley, a schoolmaster at Highgate, alarmed by a cry for help from one of his pupils, who was bathing in the Hampstead ponds, plunged in to save the boy, and *Both Perished*. The youth was a son of Mr. Barnes, of Brecknock Villas, Camden Town. Mrs. Sibley had gone out to meet her husband, and the abrupt communication by one of the pupils of what had happened almost deprived her of reason. At the inquest on the bodies the coroner commented on the dangerous state of these ponds, and said that if some steps were not taken by the Hampstead Water Company to prevent similar accidents in future, an action could be brought against them for want of proper caution. The jury attached to their verdict of accidental death a strong recommendation that such steps should be taken.

A young man named Benjamin Tate was *Drowned in the Serpentine* while bathing, on Sunday morning, the 9th. At the coroner's inquest a servant of the Royal Humane Society who had found the body said that many fatal accidents occur on the north side of the Serpentine, which is very deep, with a great accumulation of mud and many holes. The jury requested the coroner to write to the Duke of Cambridge, urging the necessity of prohibiting persons from bathing there.

As Lieutenant Webber, son of the late Dr. Webber, Dean of of Ripon, was *Handling a Loaded Pistol*, in Charterhouse Square, on the 9th, it accidentally went off, and the charge, passing through his hand, produced locked jaw, of which he died in a few hours.

Miss Seymour, of Bath, daughter of Lady Seymour, who had come to Oxford with a party of friends to be present at the commemoration, was *Killed by a Fall from her Horse*, while taking an airing, on the afternoon of the 11th, with several ladies and gentlemen. The horse stumbled, and threw Miss Seymour on her head. She was taken up insensible, and remained in that situation till the 14th, when she expired.

On the 12th, a young servant-girl was cleaning the attic windows of a house in Blackman Street, Borough, and, as usual, had placed herself on the window sill, when she lost her balance, and, falling into the street, was *Killed on the Spot*, her head being shattered to pieces.

On the 13th three workmen, employed upon the New Docks at Liverpool were *Killed by a Fall of a High Wall*, under the foundation of which they were making an excavation. When their bodies were dug out of the heap of rubbish, two were quite dead, and the third expired a few minutes after being carried to the hospital. Several other men narrowly escaped, by getting out of the way before the wall fell.

On the 15th, while several men were engaged in laying down what are called "turn-tables," or great cast-iron tubes weighing five tons each, on the Brighton

Railway, the tackle employed in hoisting one of them to the top of one of the arches, suddenly gave way, and the mass fell, bringing with it a quantity of the brickwork. One poor man, named George Rowe, was *Instantly Crushed to Death*, and two others, John Hackett and George Howison, were injured, the former so dreadfully that he was not expected to survive.

A Dreadful Fire broke out on the morning of the 17th, in a house in Phœnix Street, a narrow thoroughfare leading out of Crown Street, Soho. A Mrs. Harding, who occupied a portion of the second floor, attempted to make her escape by the window, but, after holding on by her hand for some time, was compelled to drop on the stones beneath, and her death was almost instantaneous. Her son, who had made the most courageous efforts to save her, was so burnt as to be obliged to be removed to the hospital. One of the daughters of a Mr. Noland, whose family were also inmates in the house, was literally burned to a cinder. Every article of furniture and wearing apparel belonging to the different lodgers was destroyed before the fire could be got under.

On the night of the 17th, as Captain Peel, son of Mr. Yates Peel, and nephew of Sir Robert, was returning to Nenagh Barracks, in a car with three other officers, it was *Accidentally overturned*, and, falling above him, fractured his left thigh, and his right leg in two places, and dislocated his left shoulder.

Two children of Mr. Lewen, a visitor to Brighton, were playing on the beach on the 18th, when a bathing machine, on the wheels of which they had climbed, was suddenly put in motion, and threw them down. The one, a boy of seven, escaped with slight injury; but the other, a girl of nine, was *Killed on the Spot*, the wheel having passed over her head.

On the 19th, William Jones, a labourer in Messrs. Whitbread & Co.'s brewery, was *Suffocated by Foul Air*, in a vat into which he had descended for the purpose of cleaning its bottom. The coroner's jury found that no blame was attached to the firm, as it appeared that Jones had been frequently cautioned against entering vats to clean them without first allowing the carbonic acid gas, generated from the grounds, to escape.

The Orion, a large and fine steamer, plying between Liverpool and Glasgow, was wrecked on Tuesday the 18th, off Port Patrick, with an *Appalling Loss of Life*. About one o'clock in the morning, while most of the passengers were asleep, she struck on a sunken rock, and in five minutes went down in seven fathoms water. There was no time for the people, thus awfully roused, to dress; in the cabin the water was immediately up to their knees. Every one crowded on deck, which presented a scene of consternation and despair. The boats were launched with difficulty: the first, overcrowded, sank instantly, and almost all on board perished; the second, into which a number of ladies were put, reached the shore in safety. Meanwhile the vessel filled and sank, leaving the crew and remaining passengers floating on the surface. Some saved themselves by swimming or getting on pieces of the wreck, but many were drowned. As soon as the accident was discovered from the shore, a number of boats put off and picked up the persons still struggling in the water. To make the circumstance, if possible, still more distressing, the weather was calm and beautiful, and the sea as smooth as a mirror. It is said that there were above 150 passengers on board, many being of the superior class, and about 50 appear to have perished. Among them are, Professor Burns, of Glasgow; Mr. M'Neill, of Colonsay, his wife and two daughters; Captain M'Neill, brother of the Lord Advocate; and Mr. Splott with his wife and three daughters, who were about to proceed to Australia. The causes of the disaster are under investigation.

The following graphic and affecting details are extracted from the narrative of Mr. George Thompson, of Glasgow, one of the survivors:—

"It was about half-past one that I was awoke by hearing and feeling a strange tearing sort of noise, as if some strong paper was torn. It was so gentle that I thought little of it and remained in bed, although all the other passengers in the cabin started at once to their feet and rushed on deck. After a very brief interval one of my neighbours returned, and began with great trepidation to dress. I then apprehended danger, and jumped out of bed, and drawing on my trousers went on deck, calling at the ladies' cabin, in passing, to tell my wife that she had better get up and dress although there might not be any immediate danger. On getting to the quarter-deck I found a large number of the passengers assembled in great alarm. The vessel by this time had settled somewhat by the head, and was lurching over a little to the starboard—that is, towards the land. I instantly went below to hasten my wife with her toilet, and put on a little more dress, and sought for a small trunk I had, and brought it to the middle of the cabin. My wife and I now went on deck, and as the vessel was dipping deeper and deeper into the water I calmly told her that I feared there was little hope, but that we would use every effort to save ourselves. By this time the water was over the bulwarks at the bow, and the 'heel' of the deck was becoming greater and greater. I then feared that all was over, and clasping my wife to my breast felt resigned to my fate. We then proceeded, at my wife's suggestion, to the stern of the vessel at the larboard side, and as the inclination of the deck became so great as to prevent our standing, I laid hold of one of the belaying-pins, and placing my wife between my breast and the bulwark, I there held on. A lady at this moment had got hold of my wife's shawl, but as it was not fastened at the throat it soon dropped off, and the unfortunate creature slid down the deck. On turning round I found the whole space within the bulwarks, and up to nearly the centre line of the deck, filled with a struggling multitude in the gurgling and seething waters, and most of these were very soon drowned. As soon as the water reached the companion, the pent air in the cabin forced off the skylights with a most horrid crash, and in an instant after we were under water, sucked down in the vortex of the sinking ship. When below the surface, I lost hold of my wife, and striking out found myself above water and in contact with one of the stays of the mizen-mast, which I laid hold of at once. I had hardly done so, when my wife rose also to the surface, and I at once took her hand and caused her to hold on by the same rope. I placed my legs round the rope, the better to secure my hold, and told her to rest herself on my knee, which she did. As soon as we had so far secured ourselves, the ship gave a heavy lurch to starboard, which immersed us under water; but swinging back she lurched again to port, and again were we under water. Gradually the lurches decreased in extent, and after a few more rolls the masts continued stationary. I had only my head above water, as I was supporting my wife; and I was afraid to elevate myself further, as I knew that in that case the weight would be increased. Above me, on the mast, a sailor was perched, who called out in the most imploring accents to some persons in a boat to come and take the people off. When the vessel ultimately sunk, the quarter-deck at the stern was clustered with human beings, like a bee-hive; and of these but few were saved, as the vortex absorbed them, and they were so numerous as to impede each other in their attempts to save themselves. On the shrouds of the mizen-mast, near where we were, there were several persons clustered, three women hanging on by one rope. At this time the companion cover floated off, and three persons contrived to keep up by it until they were rescued. After being about half an hour in the water, a shore boat came up and was about to pick me up, when I told the men to get a lady, who appeared much exhausted, in first; this was done, my wife was taken in next, and, as quickly as possible, all supported by the mast were speedily rescued. The boat then went to the main-mast, and took off the captain and another man or two, and then proceeded to the shore, where we were met by a little girl, who said we must come to her mammy's house, as they had a nice fire to warm us and would make us comfortable. Mr. M'Neill, of Collonsay, his wife, two daughters, and two sons, were on board. The sons alone escaped. The eldest daughter, though alive when she was brought ashore, soon died. She was a handsome, joyous, happy creature, and walked the deck till a late hour in all the health and joyousness of youth. Alas! how soon was

all changed, and ere a few hours elapsed she was a corpse. Mrs. Merrilees, of Liverpool, had a little child about nine months old in her arms. When she was overpowered with the waters, she sank, and on rising to the surface her baby was dead, and floated away out of her arms. The mother was saved; and when she recovered herself so far as to recollect her loss, she was bewailing her sad bereavement, when the body of the little innocent was brought into the house. The scene that ensued may be imagined. Mr. Tait, baker, of Glasgow, swam on shore with his little boy on his back most of the way, and both were saved. The Rev. Mr. Peughe, the Episcopal clergyman of Paisley, had a little child on board, about twelve years of age, which was given in charge to the stewardess. After the alarm was given, she proceeded to dress her little charge, and took her on deck, the poor child exclaiming, 'I know you will not leave me.' 'No, no! I never will,' exclaimed the noble woman; but, alas! heroism availed them not; the remorseless surge claimed them as its own. Nothing could exceed the kindness of the villagers to the wants of the survivors; their houses, their larders, their wardrobes—their all, were freely placed at our disposal. Nor should Dr. Douglas, the medical gentleman of the place, be omitted. He literally ran from one to another from the hour of the wreck, administering relief to those who required it, with a degree of kindness, skill, and perseverance, which must ever be remembered with gratitude by all. The night was beautifully clear and calm. There was a slight haze of fog crawling along the land, but the shore was quite visible and distinct; the lighthouse loomed close over the vessel when she struck. The distance between the rock and the shore did not appear above 150 yards, if so much, and would be about the length of the division of Argyll Street from Queen Street to Buchanan Street. The rock on which the Orion struck is well known to all the seamen and fishermen of the place, and is a very short distance from the mouth of the harbour."

Captain M'Neill, of Colonsay, lost his life in endeavouring to save the lives of others. He was seen by several of the survivors clinging to a floating spar, guiding to safety, by his voice and exertions, the shrieking throng who struggled around him. His strength failing him, he was heard to say, "For God's sake save yourselves, I have done all I can;" and, before the boats which put off from the shore could approach him, the noble-hearted soldier was beyond the reach of succour.—The cook of the Orion, a man of colour and an excellent swimmer, was among the first to reach the shore, and left it in the first boat which made for the wreck. He leapt into the sea, and by pushing spars and boxes to those who were battling with the waters, succeeded in saving several lives. On the 23rd, instructions were received from the Lord Advocate to apprehend Mr. Henderson, the master of the Orion.

No less than *five fires* took place in different parts of London on the night of the 21st. Two of them, the one in the premises of the Messrs. Bowler, vellum-binders on Garlick Hill, and the other in Red Lion Street, near the London Docks, were attended with great destruction of property, the inmates narrowly escaping with their lives. The others were at Wapping, Tabernacle Square, and Lisson Grove; but the damage done by them was comparatively small.

A young gentleman named John Bellowen, son of an extensive planter in Trinidad, *was drowned* on the morning of Sunday, the 23rd, while bathing in the Serpentine. This is the second loss of life at the north side of the Serpentine this season.

Mr. J. Smith, of Sheffield, a young man of 21, lost his life on the 24th from the *Incautious Use of Chloroform*. He was found dead in his bed in the morning, with a handkerchief in his hand firmly pressed to his mouth and nostrils; and a bottle which had contained chloroform was found by him. He had been in the habit of inhaling chloroform to allay the pain of toothache.

A Workshop suddenly Fell on the premises lately occupied by the Philanthropic Society in St. George's Fields, on the 25th, while a number of French polishers were at work in it. One man named Wilson was crushed to death, and several others so much injured that they were conveyed to the hospital.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

The Society for Improving the Condition of the Labouring Classes had its annual meeting at St. Martin's Hall on the 6th; Lord John Russell was in the chair. The committee's report, read to the meeting, enumerated the various places where improvements had been effected in the dwellings of the poor, and the sums expended for that purpose. Referring to the buildings now being erected in the neighbourhood of Gray's Inn Lane, it stated that it was intended to receive, among others, 128 needlewomen, at a rent of a shilling a week, and that there would be healthy dwellings for from two to three hundred people. Attached to these buildings there would be a public washhouse. The cost would be 10,000*l.*, of which nearly one half was still to be raised, so that the society had need of assistance. The resolution adopting the report was about to be put by the chairman, when Mr. G. W. M. Reynolds came forward, and was vociferously cheered by a knot of persons at the bottom of the hall. Lord Ashley rose to order, observing that this was a meeting of a private society for the transaction of its own business, and could be addressed only by its members. "Then," cried Mr. Reynolds, "I'll make myself a member at once," and advanced with a purse in his hand, out of which he offered some money to the secretary, which was declined. A great deal of noise and confusion arose; Mr. Reynolds insisting on his right to pay his guinea and make himself a member on the spot; and Lord John Russell explaining that this might entitle him to address a future meeting, but that he could not be heard then. At length the resolution was put and carried, only three hands being held up against it. Lord Ashley then came forward to move the second resolution, when he was met by loud uproar on the part of Mr. Reynolds's friends, in the midst of which Mr. Reynolds once more rose from his seat, and advancing with air half-menacing, half-swaggering towards the chairman, exclaimed, "I appeal to your lordship whether you will allow the working classes to be insulted in this manner?" By this time he had come up to Lord Harrowby, who sat next Lord John Russell. Lord Harrowby put out his hand to stop his further progress, and exclaimed, "Go back, sir!" Mr. Reynolds still pressed forward, on which Lord Harrowby rose from his seat, took him by the shoulders, and pushed him back. Mr. Reynolds, without further resistance, slunk back to his seat, while the meeting resounded with cheering and cries of "Well done, Lord Harrowby!" Lord Ashley went on, and in the course of his speech assured his good friends below the rope that he had been in the habit of mixing with all classes, and that he even came from among the working classes with increased respect for them, and a determination to do all he could for their benefit. Mr. Reynolds exclaimed, "The Factory Act; the Ten Hours Bill! You have betrayed the working classes." Lord Ashley did not notice the interruption, and the remaining business of the meeting was quietly gone through. This meeting gave rise to some proceedings at Bow Street. Mr. Merriman was soon afterwards charged by Mr. Seeley, bookseller, with creating a disturbance at the meeting, and was held to bail, Mr. Reynolds becoming one of his sureties. At the same time Mr. Reynolds applied for a summons for assault against Lord Harrowby, whom he called "a ferocious fellow." The magistrate said he should require written information upon oath, which was promised by Mr. Reynolds. Two days afterwards he renewed his application, but it was refused by the magistrate, who held that he had no right to address the meeting, nor to approach the chairman, and that Lord Harrowby was justified in thrusting him back as an intruder.

The *Great Flower Show of the Horticultural Society* at Chiswick, on the 8th, was attended by above six thousand visitors, the Nepaulese princes being among the number. The chief object of curiosity was the gigantic Victoria Regia Lily, grown in the gardens of Sion House. The still greater exhibition of a similar kind by the *Royal Botanical Society*, in the Regent's

Park, on the 12th, is said to have attracted no less than sixteen thousand persons. The magnificent collection of American plants was the principal feature of this exhibition.

A deputation on the subject of *Purifying the Serpentine*, consisting of several medical gentlemen, had an interview with Lord Seymour on the 8th. After having heard the statements made by the deputation, Lord Seymour replied that the condition of the Serpentine had not escaped his attention, and there could be no doubt as to the necessity of there being a constant stream passing through it. The only question in his mind was, as to the best mode of obtaining the necessary increased supply of water. He did not deny the necessity which was said to exist for thoroughly emptying the Serpentine of its mud, and also for rendering the river more safe, but it would be impossible to do so before the Great Exhibition of 1851 took place. He promised, however, that no time should be lost in affording the necessary increased supply of water.

A *Penny Bank for Savings* was opened at Cheshunt, on Monday evening, the 10th. A considerable number of depositors attended, and the promoters are sanguine of success.

The *New Church of St. Barnabas, in Pimlico, was consecrated* on the 11th, by the Bishop of London. The ceremony attracted more than ordinary attention, from the number of High Church Bishops, dignitaries, and clergy, who mustered in full canonicals, as well as from the number of aristocratic members of the High Church party; including the Earl of Carlisle, Earl Nelson, Lords Campden, Fielding, Castlereagh, John Manners, Mr. J. B. Hope, M.P., and Mr. Branston, M.P. The church, which from the style of architecture and the nature of its decorations has much the appearance of a Roman Catholic cathedral, is intended to be entirely free, without pews or paid seats. There is a college connected with the church, at which choristers and other youths will be educated. A Sisterhood of Mercy is also to be established, for parochial visiting.

The eighth anniversary festival of the *Brompton Hospital for Consumption* was celebrated on the 12th, at the Albion Tavern; Lord Feversham presiding. The institution continues to increase in usefulness. The report read by the Secretary mentions the number of in-patients during the past year as 360; being 78 more than in the previous years. Of this number 217 were relieved and discharged more or less benefited, 62 died, and there were 81 in the house when the report was drawn up. Since the opening of the new building, in 1846, 1036 in-patients had been admitted; of whom 760 were relieved and discharged, and 195 died. The number of out-patients treated during the past year has been 3176; being an increase of 371 over the number treated in the previous year. The report points out that many of these patients continue under treatment for months, and that during the year the number of prescriptions to out-patients alone has amounted to 26,956. The subscription after dinner amounted to 1500*l*.

A meeting of gentlemen connected with Wales was held on the 15th, in the Welsh Charity School, Gray's Inn Road, to promote *Secular Instruction among the Welsh* by means of their native language. The Earl of Powis presided, and the Dean of Bangor was among the persons present. It appeared from statements made at the meeting, that the population of Wales, by the census of 1841, was 1,045,753; of whom it was estimated that half a million either understand Welsh only or employ that language in their ordinary intercourse. Not only is public worship, in many parishes, conducted in Welsh, but periodical publications printed in that language have an aggregate circulation of 60,000 copies, and are probably read by 200,000 persons. All the speakers repudiated the notion that it was intended by this movement to perpetuate the Welsh language, but contended that the publication of books in that language was at present the readiest, if not the only means of diffusing information among the Welsh people. Donations were made to the amount of 115*l*.

The annual examination of the boys belonging to the model school of the *British and Foreign School Society* in the Borough Road, took place on the 19th. It was presided over by Sir E. N. Buxton, and the proficiency of the children gave great satisfaction to a large assemblage. The object of the society is the scriptural education of the children of the poor, without distinction of sect or party; and this is accomplished by promoting the establishment of schools in the destitute districts of England and Wales. The model boys' school numbers at present nearly 700 children in daily attendance, and the girls' school 300; and since the establishment of the institution 52,828 children have been received and educated, and upwards of 3000 teachers have been selected and trained. At present the schools in connexion with the society in the immediate neighbourhood of London are 203 in number, and they contain 30,160 children.

The annual festival of the *Royal Free Hospital*, Gray's Inn Road, took place at the London Tavern on the 19th, the Hon. E. H. Stanley in the chair. The number of sufferers relieved by this institution during the last year, within and without the walls, was 28,190; and the receipts, in that period, amounted to upwards of 5590*l*. In the course of the evening subscriptions were announced to the amount of 1300*l*.

The following notice has been issued by the General Post-office:—

"*General Post-office, June* 1850.

"On and after the 23rd instant, there will be no delivery of letters throughout the United Kingdom on Sunday; nor will there be any collection of letters, whether by messengers, letter-carriers, receivers, &c., on that day.

"A collection, however, by means of boxes, will still be permitted on Sunday, as at present, at the receiving-offices, whether in towns or in the country, and at the chief offices in towns, &c.; it being clearly understood that letters deposited in the receiving-boxes shall remain unsorted and untouched until the Monday; and that there shall be no attendance of postmasters or their clerks at the window of the post-office on Sunday.

"The present practice of detaining letters addressed to the Metropolis itself, when posted on Saturday, until the despatch on Sunday, will not be disturbed with the exception that the bags containing such letters must be closed on Saturday night; and, as the mails will be transmitted on Sunday in the usual manner, it will be necessary that some person shall attend to despatch the bags alluded to, as well as to receive or forward those bags that have arrived from other offices.

"Postmasters taking upon themselves to deliver letters to any parties whatsoever in contravention of these orders, will be most severely punished."

On the 20th, a meeting was held in Peel's Coffee-house, of the proprietors of a large number of the London newspapers, to consider what measures ought to be adopted by them in consequence of the recent vote of the House of Commons, with reference to Sunday labour in the Post-office, and the subsequent concurrence of the Government in the principle of that resolution. Mr. Ingram, proprietor of the "Illustrated London News," was in the chair. The meeting was attended by representatives of all the weekly newspapers, whose interests will be chiefly affected by the alterations consequent upon the resolution of the House of Commons, and by some of the proprietors of the daily and monthly periodicals. A resolution was voted;—"That this meeting conceives that by the conduct of the Ministry, in stopping the use of the post to the weekly newspapers, in an address voted by only ninety-three members of the House of Commons, it has shrunk from its duty as a government." And a committee was formed "to take into consideration the general interests of the press, and especially as to all efforts to interfere with its circulation by Sunday bills or otherwise."

At a meeting of the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers, on the 21st, Mr. Pete explained the condition of the *Metropolitan drainage question*. The Commission has definitely resolved to carry out the principle of preventing the pollution of the Thames. The plans for the district South of the Thames are finally settled. No sewer at all will discharge itself into the Thames from Nine Elms to Deptford. Westminster can be drained, down to Percy Wharf, by natural falls. The plan for the rest of the northern part of London is still under consideration, and the same principle of non-pollution of

the Thames will there be carried out; but for this remaining part it will be impossible to do without mechanical aids.

The committee for the management of *Evening Classes for Young Men in London* had a supper at the London Tavern on the 25th, at which the Earl of Harrowby presided. This institution has been founded on the principle which the Committee of the Privy Council are endeavouring to introduce in all the schools under their control—that of founding a good secular education on a sound religious basis. The report for the past year stated that 24 classes had been established, which were attended by more than 600 students, whose general good conduct had secured the entire approbation of the teachers. 29 lectures had been given freely by gentlemen of talent and reputation, and 23 teachers had in the same spirit devoted nearly 400 evenings to the instruction of young men of a different class in society. The subscriptions received during the last year amounted to 220*l.*, while the expenditure had not exceeded 130*l.*, nearly half of which was provided by the students themselves.

The fourth annual meeting of the *Grotto-passage Ragged Schools and Refuge for the Destitute* was held on the 26th, at the Literary Institution, Edward Street, Portman Square—Lord Ashley in the chair. The Report stated that during the last year, 36 boys had been boarded, lodged, and educated there, 11 of whom had been convicted thieves; of this number 8 had been sent to Australia, 6 apprenticed to sea, 1 expelled, 1 removed by the parish authorities, 1 sent back to the workhouse, where he died, 3 had left of their own accord, and 2 had been enticed to leave. There were at present 15 in the Refuge, leaving 5 vacancies. In the Industrial School there had been an average attendance of 74—25 of whom were provided daily with a dinner. Mat-making, shoe-making, tailoring, and net-making are the trades in which instruction is given, and each is expected to earn his dinner before partaking of it. The evening and Sunday schools are both well attended; the number of scholars in the former, averaging 40, and in the latter, 143. Lord Kinnaird suggested the establishment of model lodging-houses on an extensive scale; and Mr. Arthur Hill expressed his persuasion that it was extremely necessary that the boys who had passed through ragged schools, and were intended as emigrants, should, previously to leaving this country, be subjected to a kind of rural training, in order to fit them for their new situation, a rural life being the only one which can at present be properly and advantageously pursued in the colonies.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Queen, Prince Albert, and the royal children, returned on the 18th from Osborne to Buckingham Palace. On the 20th Her Majesty held the *first drawing-room* of the season; it was of extraordinary brilliancy, and the presentations were unusually numerous.

The *Baptism of the Infant Prince*, Her Majesty's third son, was celebrated on Saturday the 22nd, in the Chapel at Buckingham Palace. The sponsors were the Duke of Wellington, the Duchess of Kent as proxy for the Duchess Ida of Saxe Weimar, and his Royal Highness the Prince of Prussia (who had arrived only the same morning from the Continent). The royal procession entered the chapel about seven in the evening, the orchestra performing the March in Handel's occasional oratorio, followed by a chorale composed by Prince Albert. The ceremony was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who named the royal infant "Arthur William Patrick Albert." There was afterwards a magnificent state banquet in the picture-gallery; and the evening was concluded by a brilliant assembly and concert, at which the Nepaulese princes, among many other illustrious personages, were present.

An Embassy from Nepaul arrived at Southampton on the 25th of May. The Ambassador, General Jung Bahadoor Koorman Ranagee, is the Nepaulese Prime Minister; though only turned of thirty, he is said to be already a distinguished warrior, and the most influential statesman in Northern India. He brought a complimentary letter to the Queen, and presents stated to be worth a quarter of a million sterling. An awkward affair took place on his arrival. The Southampton custom-house had orders to pass the presents without search, but not the ambassador's own luggage. When the officers were proceeding to examine it, his excellency (a Brahmin of high caste) declared that if an article was touched he would return to India by the first steamer, and posted a Hindoo guard, with a drawn sword, over the luggage. After an interchange of telegraphic messages the blunder was rectified, and the ambassador, with his suite, presents, and property, landed and proceeded to town. The ambassador and his two brothers (all three handsome young men) have been since their arrival the chief lions of the metropolis. They have gone freely into society, visited the chief places of public amusement, and accepted invitations to numberless fêtes and parties, public and private, enjoying every thing (except the creature comforts of the entertainment, of which they decline to partake) with infinite zest, and creating a very favourable impression by their intelligence, frankness, and good humour. They have their box at Her Majesty's Theatre, where they are seen every opera night, seemingly delighted with the performances, especially the ballet. The principal fête in their honour was that given by the East India Company on Saturday the 15th, at the London Tavern, and attended by a host of people of distinction, including several members of the government and of the diplomatic body. The Nepaulese did not partake of the sumptuous banquet set before them, but, retiring into another room, had some fruit, and then rejoined the company. The ambassador, on his health being given, returned thanks in his own language, in a speech of excellent taste and feeling, which was translated to the company by Captain Cavanagh, an officer attached to the embassy.—On the 19th the ambassador and his brothers were presented to the Queen by the President of the Board of Control, when his excellency delivered a letter to Her Majesty from his sovereign, and the presents, of which he was the bearer.

Prince Albert, as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, has addressed a letter, dated the 27th of May, to the Vice-Chancellor, on the subject of the *Royal Commission of Inquiry*. After expressing his conviction that the proposed measure does not cast any slur upon the university, by implying want of confidence in their ability or inclination to carry out useful reforms, and that the government are anxious, by the selection of persons who are to compose the Commission, not to expose the university to needless hostility, his Royal Highness concludes by giving the following advice:—"Although I had hoped that the university would have been allowed to go on in their course of self-improvement without any extraneous interference, now that I find the Government irrevocably pledged to the issue of the Commission, I would recommend the authorities of the university not to meet it with opposition, but rather to take it as the expression, on the part of the Crown and Parliament, of a natural desire to be accurately informed upon the present state of institutions so closely connected with and of such vital importance to the best interests of the nation; and to take a pride in showing to those who have indulged in attacks against them, that they have conscientiously and zealously fulfilled the great task entrusted to them. Any hostility or opposition on the part of the university could not prevent the issue of the Commission by the present government; and, while it might add strength to the accusations of their enemies, would only lead to the result of the inquiry remaining incomplete, and, as based upon one-sided evidence, probably injurious to the universities themselves."

The *Freedom of the City of London was presented to Lord Gough* on the 30th of May, at a full Court of Common Council; and in the evening a grand banquet was given to him at the Mansion House. The Duke of Cambridge and a number of members of both houses of Parliament were among the three hundred guests.

At the *Oxford Commemoration* on June 12th, the degree of Doctor of Civil Law was conferred on the Indian warriors Lord Gough and Major Edwardes. The same honour was conferred on Major Rawlinson the

Oriental scholar, Justice Alderson, and Dr. Paris, the President of the College of Physicians. The undergraduates were even more uproarious than usual; in consequence, seemingly, of an order, issued by the authorities, against practices which of late years had brought "great discredit on the University." Great cheers were raised for "the Duke" and Lord Brougham, on account of the sentiments they have expressed respecting the Royal Commission; while, for the same cause, loud groans were uttered at the names of Lord John Russell and Sir Robert Peel.

On Sunday evening, the 16th, the people of Pentonville were surprised by the spectacle of a *Mormon Baptism*. Two handsome carriages, containing several fashionable-looking ladies, drove up to the Pentonville Swimming Baths. They went into the boxes, and having put on bathing dresses, were thrice immersed in the water by a Mormon minister, who has a chapel in the neighbourhood, a number of people of the persuasion being present. The singing of a hymn closed the proceedings. The names of the fair converts did not transpire; but they appeared to belong to the higher orders of society.

The Duke of Wellington gave his annual banquet, on the 18th, the *Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo*. Covers were laid for eighty guests, seventy-two of whom were the Duke's Companions in Arms on that memorable day. Most of these veterans are general officers, and the lowest in rank are lieutenant-colonels. Prince Albert and a few persons of distinction completed the company. The entertainment was in the usual style of magnificence. When the party broke up, about midnight, the gallant host, who had done the honours with great animation, ordered his carriage and went off to a ball.

About a hundred members of the House of Commons waited on Lady Palmerston on the 22nd, and presented to her ladyship a *full-length Portrait of her Husband*, painted by Partridge, in token of approbation of Lord Palmerston's public conduct.

Mr. Robert Hunt, an elder and only surviving brother of Mr. Leigh Hunt, has been nominated one of the *Poor Brethren of the Charter-House*. He is in his 77th year.

Mrs. Harriett Waghorn, the widow of the late *Lieutenant Waghorn*, has received a pension from the Crown of 25*l*. a year, "in consideration of the eminent services of her late husband."

Senor Isturitz, the new *Ambassador from Spain*, arrived in London on the 5th, with a numerous suite.

The late *Lord Chancellor* has been created Viscount Crowhurst, of Crowhurst in the county of Surrey, and Earl of Cottenham, of Cottenham in the county of Cambridge.

Letters have been received from Mr. Layard, our enterprising countryman, so late as April 10, and dated from Arban, on the River Khabour. The last accounts from this quarter mentioned Mr. Layard's purpose of penetrating into the Desert, which he has now done, and explored for three weeks, meeting with numerous traces of ancient population, though not so productive of antiquities as was hoped for. His present site, however, is richer in archæological remains, and is important, as these are undoubtedly Assyrian, and thus establish the fact of the extent of that empire. Two winged bulls and other fragments have been discovered among the ruins. Mr. Layard was desirous to examine the Khabour to its mouth; but the Arabs in that direction were hostile to those whom he ranked among his friends, and amid whose dromedaries, flocks, and tents he was located. The sheikh and all the tribe were kind and hospitable.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

The Hon. FRANCES GABRIELLE TALBOT, sister of Lord Talbot de Malahide, Countess of the Austrian Empire, and Canoness of the Royal Order of St. Ann of Munich, died at Vienna on the 28th April.

SIR GEORGE CHETWYND, Bart., for many years clerk of the Privy Council, died at Grenden Hall, Warwickshire, on the 24th May, in his 67th year.

MR. RICHARD WYATT, the eminent sculptor, died at Rome on the 29th May. He had resided there for the last twenty years.

Lieut.-Colonel P. CAMPBELL, C.B., died at Brighton on the 31st May. He served with great distinction throughout the War and at Waterloo.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir JOHN BUCHAN, K.C.B., died on 2nd inst. at his house in Harley Street. He entered the army in 1795; and served in the Mysore War, in Ceylon, the West Indies, and through the Peninsula campaigns.

His Royal Highness WILLIAM FREDERICK MAURICE, of the Netherlands, second son of the King, died on the 4th, at the age of six years and nine months.

MR. JAMES SMITH, of Deanston, the eminent agriculturist, whose practice and opinions have been so often referred to during the Protection controversy, died on the 10th at the house of his relative Mr. Buchanan, of Catrine, in Ayrshire. He is regarded as the inventor of the modern system of drainage.

LORD CANTILUPE, eldest son of the Earl of Delawarr, died on the 25th, of rheumatic fever, in his 37th year. He sat in Parliament for several years; first for Helston, and afterwards for Lewes.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE disturbances on the North-Western frontier of India have been quelled for the present, and the leading Affreedee chiefs have formally submitted. The passes between Kohat and Pashawur are nevertheless not considered safe, though nothing further can be conclusively done till the season for a regular campaign. Such other interests as appear to occupy the Indian newspapers, centre almost wholly in railways, which have also lately occupied the attention of the House of Commons, on the motion of Lord Jocelyn. Upon the whole, the prospects in this respect are not unfavourable; and it is curious, that, of all the apparently mad speculations originating in the fatal railway enthusiasm of five years ago, the companies which most bravely have weathered the panic are those for the promotion of railways in India.

From Canada we have news of a series of successes of the government party, the most remarkable of which is an amendment to the address raising the question of an elective upper chamber, defeated by a considerable majority. Another somewhat notable question started in the Assembly was embodied in an address to the Queen for the independence of the British North American provinces, and voted for by seven members. We may add, that one result of the London visit of the Bishop of Toronto, to which we formerly adverted, has declared itself in a vote of four thousand pounds by the Christian Knowledge Society towards the endowment of two additional bishopries in Canada.

But bishopries are quite the order of the day in Colonial matters, and episcopal sees are founded before even outlines of congregations are found. The proposition for what is called the Canterbury Settlement in New Zealand, for example, is based upon the reservation of a pound per acre for ecclesiastical purposes. The land is to cost ten shillings an acre, the public works are to engross another ten shillings, and a sum equal in amount to both is to be laid aside for episcopal endowments. We doubt if history contains a satisfactory example of a religion planted in this particular manner, or if the Canterbury Settlement is in any way likely to furnish the example needed.

The last *Overland Mail* has brought dates from Bombay to the 11th of May.

The kingdom of Oude has been much disturbed, and the British troops stationed there have met with a disaster in supporting the king against his rebellious subjects. A detachment under the command of Captain Wilson, sent against a refractory Zemindar who occupied a strong position, was repulsed on the 29th of March, with the loss of Lieutenant Elderton, who was killed, and seventy-five men killed and wounded. During the following night the enemy evacuated the fort, passing unharmed through the King of Oude's troops. The fort was taken possession of and destroyed.

The Governor-General had left Calcutta for Simla, for the benefit of his health, which had suffered much from the climate and from over-exertion.

The practice of *Thuggism* is not extinct in India. It has recently been discovered that Lieutenant Brockman of the 50th regiment, who was missing after the battle of Moodkee, was murdered by a party of Thugs, who came upon him while he was resting himself by the side of a well, on his way to overtake his regiment.

A *Suttee* had occurred in the neighbourhood of Bombay. The husband was 60 and the widow about 22; yet, though they were of low caste, her self-sacrifice was not only voluntary, but in opposition to her family and friends. All who were known to be present were tried by the district judge, and nineteen or twenty people were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, from ten to two years.

There are advices from the *West Indies* to the latter end of May.

The drought which had so long prevailed was giving way, and there had been seasonable rains in several of the islands. In Antigua, however, the drought continued, and it was proposed to hold a general fast and offer up prayers for the mitigation of the calamity. In Jamaica the cultivation of cotton was occupying much attention. In Trinidad considerable excitement has been caused by the discovery of gold in several parts of the island.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

We noticed in our last number the first preliminary meeting of intending *Emigrants on Mrs. Chisholm's Plan*. A second took place on the 1st instant, and was numerously attended by intending emigrants, whose intelligent and respectable appearance was highly gratifying. Mrs. Chisholm informed them that since the last meeting she had received communications from persons about to accompany them to the colonies, one of whom had a capital of 350*l*., another 6000*l*., another 4000*l*., and five others having from 200*l*. to 400*l*., each. To such persons the society could only afford assistance in the way of advice, but she thought it right to mention the matter to the meeting, as these capitalists would no-doubt be anxious to secure the services of persons seeking for employment who would be going out by the same ship. Mrs. Chisholm read some interesting letters from emigrants in Australia, and mentioned that many sums of money lent by herself and her friends to assist persons to emigrate, had been faithfully repaid.

On the same day a meeting was held at St. Martin's Hall, with the object of taking measures to *Improve the Condition of Emigrants*, and to protect them in the voyage to the colonies south of the equator. The Earl of Harrowby took the chair; supported by the Bishop of Norwich, Lord Lyttelton, Mr. A. Stafford, M.P., Mr. Napier, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Mackenzie (vicar of St. Martin's), Rev. Dr. Childs, the Rev. J. Anderson, and other clergymen and gentlemen interested in colonisation and the general improvement of the condition of the poor. Resolutions were passed, to the effect that every body of emigrants should be accompanied by a chaplain or lay-teacher; that each ship should be furnished with books and maps, and with tools and materials for manual employment; and that all contributions for these objects should be confided to the committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, formed last year to provide a fund for the religious instruction of the emigrants.

A large party of *Young Female Emigrants*, sixty-one in number, sent out to Australia under the auspices of Mr. Sidney Herbert's Society, embarked on the 26th, in the Northumberland, bound for Port Phillip. They consisted almost entirely of needlewomen, and most of them have been inmates of the "Home," and have received certificates of good conduct while domiciled there. There were three who had paid for their passage, but went under the care and protection of the Society. The girls having been mustered, were presented with their credentials, with copies of the rules of the ship, and instructions and hints for their future conduct, drawn up on the part of the Society. The former arrangements as to needlework and instruction will be observed, and a supply of little articles of luxury, such as preserved milk, &c., similar to that provided on board the other ships, has been duly laid in. A whimsical piece of folly came to light during the muster. One girl was absent, and on her name being repeatedly called, a companion of hers, also an emigrant, came forward and informed the committee that although her friend had quite made up her mind to go, and although she had herself provided and packed her outfit, yet that at Blackwall she had changed her mind, because—the noise of the steamer frightened her! Most of the girls were deeply affected, but they soon recovered their cheerfulness. Altogether, both as regards the accommodation for the voyage, and the appearance and character of the girls themselves, we believe that the expedition appears to have departed with most favourable prospects.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE new Electoral Law having been voted, and the Greek affair having subsided, France has been rehearsing all the month a political comedy called *Money*, without any of the wit or humour of its English namesake—in fact, an extremely dull affair. The President has been asking for more salary, and the Assembly has been disputing his claim; but what are called his services to the "party of order" have prevailed, and ten thousand pounds a month has been voted as "costs of representation" to the salary originally assigned him of twenty-four thousand pounds a year. The result had been doubtful up to the close of a long debate, when it was determined at last by a few short, sharp sentences, like the cuts of a sabre, from the ordinarily silent Changarnier. The beginning of the end would thus appear to have arrived.

A piratical expedition to Cuba, undertaken by a party of American adventurers, headed by a Spanish soldier of fortune, has been the single exciting event of transatlantic politics. But it turned out a somewhat absurd one. For the gallant Lopez and his two thousand companions, after storming and sacking a very small town, made off with all possible speed, as compactly as they could, and left the stocks and the gallows to pick up the stragglers. It is not impossible, however, that this contemptible affair may have some serious results in checking the friendly intercourse between America and Spain.

Germany does not better her deplorable condition. Prussia and Austria have been bidding for the favour of Nicholas, and Prussia has signalised a reported success at St. Petersburg by a crusade against her liberal press at home. There is the same lamentable tale to tell of Italy. Completed outrages on property and person, throughout the Papal States, alternate with attempted outrages on mind and intellect; and whether

the allocations of the Pope or the assaults of the Brigands are more mischievous, it would be difficult to say. Meanwhile, a miracle has been got up at Rimini. A picture of the Madonna opens and shuts its eyes, whereat bishops and canons are in ecstasy, infidel Austrians and Romans are converted, cripples and blind people are cured, and "the Virgin by one glance of ineffable expression" is bringing back a most recalcitrant population into the Pope-loving ranks of the Faithful. The poor Pope has ordered a "judicial enquiry" to be made into this affair!

The *Electoral Law* was passed in the French Assembly on the 31st of May, after a long debate, but without a single alteration of any importance. On the 3rd inst. it was officially published in the Moniteur.

On the 4th a bill was presented by the Ministry to the Assembly for increasing the *Salary of the President* to 3,600,000 francs (144,000*l.* sterling) a year. The funds instantly fell from 96·15 to 94·25.

The President went on the 9th with several of his ministers to inaugurate the *Opening of the Railway* from Creil to St. Quentin. He made some telling speeches, and was received with a great show of popular enthusiasm.

M. Emile Girardin, the eminent proprietor of the Presse, has been elected by the *Department of the Lower Rhine*, in opposition to the government candidate, by a majority of 30,000 votes to 20,000.

A *Dinner Party* given by the President at St. Cloud on the 15th had nearly been attended with a terrible disaster. The Count and Countess de Gouy d'Arcy were arriving in a carriage, when the President, who was riding in the grounds, galloped forward to meet them. Having chatted with them for a moment at the carriage window, he put spurs to his horse to meet some other guests. The Count's horse took fright, and dashed off at full speed along the edge of a ravine. In a few seconds the side wheels got off the path, and the carriage, to the horror of the spectators, was precipitated down the slope. Louis Napoleon was the first to reach the spot, and found the carriage smashed to pieces, the horse lying on his side, the young Countess with her bonnet in her hand arranging her hair, and her husband with equal composure shaking the dust out of his dress-coat. Neither had received the least injury, and during the evening they were the gayest of the party.

Several persons were arrested in Paris on the 18th and 19th, charged with the clandestine *Manufacture of Gunpowder*. A number of socialist agents have been sentenced by the Court of Assize of the Loire Inferieure to various terms of imprisonment, for having uttered blasphemous and atrocious cries in the streets, such as "A bas Dieu!" "Vive l'Enfer!" "A bas la Religion!" "Vive le Pillage!" "Vive la Guillotine!" and others equally infamous.

The committee on the bill for *Increasing the President's Salary* made a report, which was read to the assembly on the 21st. It rejects the ministerial measure, and proposes "that a credit of 1,600,000 francs be opened in favour of the Minister of Finance for the expenses incurred in 1849 and 1850, in consequence of the installation of the President of the Republic."

The subject was disposed of by the Assembly on the 24th. The question discussed was between the above-mentioned amendment on the bill, proposed by the majority of the committee, and another amendment which had been proposed by the minority and adopted by the government, viz., "That an extraordinary credit of 2,160,000 francs for the expenses of the President of the Republic be opened in the Ministry of Finance for 1850." And this last amendment was carried by 354 against 308, a majority of 46 for the government.

General Lahitte announced to the Assembly on the 21st, that the question between the English and French governments was arranged; the English government having agreed to abide by the provisions agreed to at London, instead of those which had been arranged at Athens.

M. Thiers *Arrived from Paris* on the 13th. The same evening he visited the House of Lords, where he was cordially greeted by the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Brougham, Lord Palmerston, and several members of both Houses, with whom he remained a short time in animated conversation. He paid a visit to the ex-king of the French at St. Leonard's, and immediately afterwards returned to Paris.

A conspiracy on an extensive scale has been discovered in Oran, Algeria. The plan of the conspirators was to seize the Fort La Monne and the Treasury, and to establish a Provisional Government. Two Municipal councillers of Oran, a lieutenant of the 68th regiment of the line, and several soldiers have been arrested.

The Arab village of Ouldja has been burnt down, the inhabitants dispersed, and thirty people killed by the French troops, in consequence of their refusal to give up some Arabs who had killed a French soldier and wounded another.

The *Settlement of the German Constitution* makes little or no apparent progress. The Saxon chambers were suddenly dissolved on the 1st instant, to evade a discussion in the second chamber on an address to the sovereign, expressing dissatisfaction with the conduct of the government on the German question; and the second chamber broke up in solemn silence, withholding the usual cheers for the king. The Wurtemburg Diet, for a similar reason, was prorogued on the 4th instant.

The *King of Hanover* entered his eightieth year on the 5th instant.

The 1050th *Anniversary of the Arrival of a Fragment of the True Cross* was celebrated at Coesfeld on the 25th of May by a solemn mass in the cathedral. The city was visited during the days of the fête by 50,000 pilgrims.

The King of Prussia has *Recovered from the Wound* inflicted by the assassin Sefeloge. On the 9th he attended divine worship in the chapel of the palace of Charlottenburg; and on the morning of the 10th he was greeted with a grand musical performance under his window, as a congratulation on his full recovery.

A royal decree has been published at Berlin, curtailing still further the *Freedom of the Press*. The system of "caution-money" is re-established, with the government powers of cancelling the licence to sell newspapers, and of refusing conveyance by post to obnoxious journals; and certain offences against the press laws are "withdrawn from the competency of a jury."

Among the journals affected by the above decree is our own *Punch*, which has been proscribed in the city of Konigsberg and its province, and placed on the list of journals that are no longer permitted to pass through the Post Office.

There are accounts from *Madrid* to the 20th. The Queen's accouchement was expected to take place in a few days. The daughter of the Duchess of Montpensier has received, by a royal decree, the rank and honours attached to the title of Infanta of Spain. It appears that the Duke and Duchess of Montpensier are not popular in Madrid. The feeling of the multitude was strongly expressed at a bull-fight a few days ago. The Duke and Duchess were present, and, according to the custom which prevails when any member of the Royal family assists at the spectacle, the chief of the Toreadors requested their permission to commence the fight on his bended knee. At this proceeding the entire assembly hooted and hissed. When the second bull was about to be led forth, the same ceremony was repeated with the same result, although the famous Montes, the conqueror in all his battles, was one of the Toreadors. On the third bull-fight being about to commence, the Toreador merely saluted the Duke and Duchess, without bending his knee. A shout of applause was immediately raised by the entire mob. The royal party, visibly affected, quitted their box after the death of the third bull. This manifestation, so spontaneous and so unanimously produced, surprised everybody, even those who took part in it. It is regarded as a political event of considerable importance.—It is said that some serious differences have arisen between the Minister of War and General

Cordova, the present Captain-General of Madrid. The cause of the quarrel is the refusal of the minister to grant the numerous favours requested for the troops who have returned from Italy.

In Italy *Superstition continues to Flourish.* An image of the Virgin, belonging to a woman of Fossombrone, was observed by its owner and some of her female friends to move its eyes in a miraculous manner. The matter was taken up by the bishop, and a commission of theologians, appointed to examine the case, made a favourable report, in consequence of which the statue was transported to the cathedral, where it now cures the halt, the blind, the dumb, and the deaf. Immense sums have already been received for alms by the church.

A letter from Naples, of the 18th inst., mentions *a Terrible Catastrophe* in that city. The morning before, a part of the Grenaglio, an immense edifice, which the troops occupy as barracks, gave way and fell down, swallowing up in its ruins 400 or 500 persons. No details are given, but it is hoped that the number of the killed is exaggerated.

A letter of the 17th inst. from Semlin states that an insurrection against the Turkish government has broken out in the three Bulgarian districts of Widdin, Gurgissova, and Belgradsisza, and that the small fort of the latter place has fallen into the hands of the insurgents.

There is intelligence from *Persia* of the detection of a conspiracy at Tabriz, the capital of Aderbijean. Five of the conspirators were beheaded on the 21st May, and their bodies exposed, each with the head under the left arm, over the gates of the town. Nine were executed previously. Salar, the chief of the rebellion in Khorassan, and uncle of the Shah, has been taken prisoner and put to a cruel death, both his eyes having been torn from his head before decapitation.

The advices from the *United States* come down to the 15th instant.

A Buccaneering Expedition to the Island of Cuba sailed from New Orleans on the 8th of May, under the command of General Lopez, a Creole soldier of fortune, and consisting of about 600 men. The preparations were so secretly made, that they did not transpire till after the adventurers had sailed, when President Taylor sent orders to all the out-ports to pursue and capture them if possible. The invading force landed from the steamer Creole at Cardenas, in Cuba, on the 19th of May, and after a short struggle obtained possession of the town, making the governor and his officers prisoners. The same evening, a Spanish force having arrived from Matanzas, the pirates were driven on board their vessel, after a severe conflict, in which they lost 30 men, while the Spaniards lost 150. On the 25th, Lopez arrived at Savannah, when he was arrested under orders from the President, and brought before the District Court, but immediately liberated, no evidence being brought to justify commitment. He was conducted to his lodging, amid the cheers of the "sympathising" multitude, whom he addressed, declaring his determination to persist in the liberation of Cuba under every difficulty and at all hazards. He was, however, again arrested and taken to New Orleans, where he was held to bail in 3000 dollars.

An application for a writ of error in the case of *Professor Webster*, lately convicted of the murder of Dr. Parkman, was under the consideration of the Supreme Court of Boston.

The convention between Great Britain and the United States for the settlement of their common interests in Central America, and for the perpetual neutrality of the inter-oceanic line of communication by ship canal or otherwise through the state of Nicaragua, has now received the approval of the Senate of the United States, and the ratifications will in all probability forthwith be exchanged. The most important article of this treaty is the first, which runs as follows:—"The governments of the United States and Great Britain hereby declare that neither the one nor the other will ever obtain or maintain for itself any exclusive control over the said ship canal; agreeing that neither will ever erect or maintain any fortifications commanding the same or in the vicinity thereof, or occupy or colonise, or assume or exercise, any dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito Coast, or any part of Central America; nor will either *make use of any protection which either affords*, or may afford, or any alliance which either has, or may have, to or with any State or people, for the purpose of maintaining or erecting any such fortifications, or of *occupying, fortifying*, or colonising Nicaragua, Costa Rica, *the Mosquito Coast* or any part of Central America, or of assuming or exercising dominion over the same." With respect to the construction of the canal itself, another article of the convention provides that the British and American governments will give their support and encouragement to such persons or company as may first offer to commence the canal with the necessary capital; and a year from the date of the ratifications is to be allowed to give such company a right of priority, and to enable it to complete its arrangements and present evidence of sufficient capital.

The latest accounts from *California* state that during the year preceding the 27th of March last upwards of 1000 vessels of all countries had arrived there, having on board 46,285 passengers. Several rich deposits of gold had been discovered. At one place two men dug out twenty-eight ounces in a single morning, besides a lump weighing more than a pound, of pure gold. Among these adventurers the tone of society is sufficiently ferocious, and fatal rencounters are not unusual in their "hells" or gaming-houses. Two men, named White and Helm, having got into a dispute in a game of cards, White drew a revolver and shot Helm through the neck, killing him instantly. He then turned on Helm's brother, who had taken a part in the dispute, and presented another pistol; but before he could fire, Helm seized his arm and stabbed him several times in the side, causing his instant death. No notice was taken of the affair.—A Chamber of Commerce, Exchange, and Reading-room have been established at San Francisco.

Accounts from *Rio de Janeiro* of the 5th of April state that the deaths from yellow fever in that city, since the 1st January, had been nearly 10,000, and that the malady still continued to rage there. At Bahia and Pernambuco the disease had abated.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE publications of the month have been numerous, and in some instances of more than usual pretension in respect of subject. The University Commission lingers still unappointed, but a new and gratifying proof of the sincerity of ministers in regard to it has been offered by the letter of the Prince-consort, in his character of Chancellor at Cambridge; wherein, replying to an appeal from the authorities of the University, he states that he had not been advised with by the Premier before the issue of the Commission was resolved upon, but that, finding Government irrevocably pledged to it, he would recommend the Heads of Houses not to meet it with opposition, but to co-operate in rendering it complete. For this sound advice the Prince has been severely taken to task by an eccentric Ex-Chancellor, who has somewhat fiercely warned his Royal Highness of his "false position" in being husband to the Queen yet aspiring to be anything else; has promised him a "great unpopularity" in consequence; has denounced "Germanism" of all kinds and forms; and has given

practical effect to this denunciation by selecting one of the most distinguished scholars of Germany for a public and gross insult, which he was permitted to administer unrebuked in the highest assembly of gentlemen known in England. This eccentric Ex-Chancellor, it need hardly be added, is also a Chancellor, being the head of a University specially called into existence twenty years ago, by himself, as a practical contrast and defiance to the older educational institutions which he had then been all his life denouncing as obsolete, but in which he now sees nothing to remove, nothing to inquire into, no exclusiveness, no sinecurism, nothing to impede the extension of knowledge, and nothing that does not tend to widen the circle of educated, thoughtful, large-minded men.

The class of literature to which the largest additions have been made during the past month, is that of biography. Mr. Edmund Phipps has published extracts from the diaries and literary remains of the author of *Tremaine*, with biographical and critical comment, under the title of *Memoirs of the Political and Literary Life of Robert Plumer Ward*; and the book has been made more interesting than the subject would have seemed to promise, by the fact of Mr. Ward's intimate connexion, both in private and public life, with the leading tory statesmen of the administrations of Addington, Perceval, and Liverpool. The political and administrative characteristics of the Duke of Wellington have probably never had such vivid illustration. Mr. Leigh Hunt has published his *Autobiography, with Reminiscences of Friends and Contemporaries*, some of it the republication of a former work, but the greater part original, or at least so changed by interpolations, recantations, or additions, as to produce the effect of novelty. The Reverend Mr. Field, an enthusiast for the separate and silent system, has published a new *Life of Howard*, dedicated to Prince Albert, of which the design appears to be to counteract the evil tendency of a recent memoir of the philanthropist, remarkable for what the reverend enthusiast calls "the advocacy of democratic principles, and the aspersion of a godly prince." Each in a goodly-sized volume, we have had a sort of general biographical notice of *Celebrated Etonians*, and of *Speakers of the House of Commons*, the first by an able man, quite competent to the subject. Miss Pardoe has edited the first volume of a series of *Memoirs of the Queens of Spain*, of which the author is a Spanish lady, resident in America. An ingenious northern antiquary has published memorials of one of the old border mansions, called Dilston Hall, which amounts in effect to an interesting *Memoir of the Earl of Derwentwater*, who suffered in the Jacobite rebellion. And, finally, Mr. Andrew Bisset has done good service to both history and biography by a very careful publication of the *Memoirs and Papers of Sir Andrew Mitchell*, Lord Chatham's ambassador at the court of Frederic the Great, and one of the very ablest of English diplomatists.

To the department of philosophy a somewhat remarkable contribution is to be noticed under the title of *The Progress of the Intellect as exemplified in the religious development of the Greeks and Hebrews*. The writer is Mr. Robert William Mackay, a name not likely to remain uncelebrated (whether for good or ill) after the publication of such a work. Its design is to explain by a rationalistic process all the religious faiths and beliefs which have exerted the greatest influence over man, and to refer them exclusively to moral and intellectual development. In this design the writer may, or may not, have succeeded; but it is certain, making all drawbacks on the score of what has probably been borrowed from German investigation, that the book has high pretensions to eloquence and research, and reminds us of a time when publication was less frequent than now, and a single book might embody the labour of a life. For its antidote in respect of opinion and purpose there has been published not inopportunely, after a peaceful slumber of nearly two centuries in the library at Wotton, *A Rational Account of the True Religion*, by our good old gentlemanly John Evelyn. Here the design is, by all possible arguments and authorities, to confirm our faith in Christianity.

We must speak very summarily and briefly of the publications in general literature. Of books of travel and adventure the most attractive and interesting in point of subject is *Five Years of a Hunter's Life in the Far Interior of South Africa*, by Mr. Roualeyn Gordon Cumming, a kinsman of the Chief of Argyll, in whom a love of deer-stalking seems to have gradually expanded into dimensions too gigantic to be satisfied with anything less than the stalking of the lion, the elephant, the hippopotamus, the giraffe, or the rhinoceros. The book is filled with astonishing incidents and anecdotes, and keeps the reader very nearly as breathless with excitement as the elephant and lion-hunter himself must have been. Mr. Aubrey de Vere has published some very graceful *Picturesque Sketches of Greece and Turkey;* and the brave and high-minded old General Pepe has given the world *A Narrative of Scenes and Events in Italy from* 1847 *to* 1849. Mr. Johnston, the distinguished geographer of Edinburgh, has issued the most complete *General Gazetteer of the World* that has yet been comprised in a single volume; and as part of the republication of the treatises of the Encyclopædia Metropolitana, in separate and portable volumes, we have to mention an interesting volume on Greek Literature by Mr. Justice Talfourd, the Bishop of London, and other accomplished scholars. In poetical translation, we have had a new version of *Æschylus* by Professor Blackie, of Aberdeen; and in poetry, with the title of *In Memoriam*, a noble and affecting series of elegies to the memory of a friend from the pen of Mr. Alfred Tennyson.

The thirty-seventh annual Exhibition of the *British Institution* was opened to the public on the 8th. There are 171 pictures, lent by a variety of owners. Among them are works by Guercino, Velasquez, Rubens, Rembrandt, Titian, Guido, Vandyck, Tintoretto, Domenichino, Holbein, and some of the painters of the Dutch School. Of the English School there are specimens by Reynolds, Wilkie, Wilson, Gainsborough, Beechey, Liversedge, Stuart, Newton, Callcott, and others: the whole forming a very interesting collection.

Verdi's "Nabucodonosar," produced a few years since at *Her Majesty's Theatre* under the title of "Nino," was brought out at the rival house on the 4th, with another change of name, being now called "Anato." It proved a failure, as might have been expected.

"La Tempesta," an opera founded on Shakespeare's "Tempest," the libretto written by Scribe and translated into Italian, and the music composed by Halévy, was performed for the first time at *Her Majesty's Theatre* (for which house it was written and composed) on the 8th, with the most triumphant success. The character of Miranda is sustained by Madame Sontag, Prospero by Coletti, Ferdinand by Baucarde, Caliban by Lablache, and Ariel is danced by Carlotta Grisi.

"Le Prophete" of Meyerbeer was re-produced at the *Royal Italian Opera* on the 20th, and was performed in the same manner as last season, the only change of any moment being the substitution of Madame Castellan for Miss Hayes in the part of Bertha, and of Formes for Marini in Zacharias. The opera was received with undiminished enthusiasm.

A three-act play, called "Power and Principle," by Mr. Morris Barnett, was produced at the *Strand Theatre* on the 10th, and favourably received. It is an abridged and simplified version of the "Kabal und Liebe," of Schiller.

The eighth *Philharmonic Concert* took place on the 17th, closing a remarkably successful season.

Jenny Lind has just given six concerts at Stockholm, in aid of the pension fund for the widows and orphans of the performers at the Theatre Royal of that city. The clear profit has amounted to upwards of 2400*l.* sterling.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of May 28. THOMAS CROFT, Whitechapel-rd., stable keeper.—JOAH CROSSLEY, and JONATHAN CROSSLEY, Bangor, Carnarvonshire, wine merchants.—WILLIAM EELEY, Horsepath, Oxfordshire, butcher.—THOMAS HUGHES, Newport, Monmouthshire, ship-owner.—GEORGE THORNELOE, High-st., Poplar, grocer.

May 31. SAMUEL ADAMS, Birmingham, gun manufacturer.—WALLIS JAMES GARRETT, Bath, grocer.—AUGUSTUS KEAPEL HOLMAN, Wortley, Yorkshire, cloth manufacturer. — JOHN JACKSON, Mark-lane, City, eatinghouse keeper.—JOHN PARKS, Cross-st., Islington, furrier.—FRIEND WESTOVER, Lewisham, Kent, cheesemonger.

June 4. WILLIAM CHANCELLOR, Bath, innkeeper.—THOMAS JEYS EDWARDS, King-st., Bloomsbury, dressing-case maker.—CHARLES FRANCIS, Liverpool, grocer.—THOMAS GOODE, Hereford, chemist.—WILLIAM HIGGS, Wolverhampton, iron dealer.—SAMUEL HOGG, and HENRY JAMES HOGG, Landport, Hampshire, auctioneers.—GEORGE HORNSBY, and ROBERT PONTER MOULD, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, builders. — WILLIAM FOSTER NEWTON, Dover-st., Piccadilly, milliner. — THOMAS KING PYRKE, High-st., Notting-hill, bookseller.—JOSEPH JOHN MONK MASON SCOTT, Liverpool, wine and spirit merchant.—HENRY THURSTAN, Cheltenham, innkeeper.—CHARLES WILLIAM WILLIAMSON, Birmingham, baker.—GEORGE WOODWARD, Doncaster, Yorkshire, gun-maker.

June 7. JOSEPH AWFORD, Stroud, Gloucestershire, mealman.—PATRICK ADAIR BLACK, and JOHN WHITTINGHAM, Liverpool, provision and general brokers.—HENRY BOLTON, Luton, Beds., straw hat manufacturer. —WILLIAM THOMAS HEARN, Portsmouth, licensed victualler.—GEORGE HENRY HOBSON, Cornhill, ironmonger.—HENRY AUGUSTUS HOPE, Trinity-sq., Surrey.—WILLIAM GEORGE MOSS, High-st., Peckham, licensed victualler.—ROBERT THOMPSON, Notting-hill, builder.

June 11. THOMAS BAXENDALE, Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire, grocer.—ROBERT CAMPLING, Norwich, haberdasher.—GEORGE HAINES, Northampton, grocer.—JONAS HARROP, Macclesfield, silk dyer.—MAURICE JARVAS, Leeds, wool merchant.—GEORGE KILNER, Kirkheaton, Yorkshire, coal merchant. — THOMAS SMITH, Liverpool, cheesemonger.—JOHN WARING, Liverpool, draper.

June 14. WILLIAM JACKSON, Liverpool, wine merchant.—JAMES KAYE, Bridge-row-Wharf, Pimlico, coal and slate merchant.—JOHN M'GIBBON, and ARCHIBALD GALBREATH, Hull, traders.—THOMAS SMITH, Liverpool, cheesemonger.—FREDERICK STOESSIGER, Birmingham, jeweller.—WILLIAM WALKER, George-yd., Soho, carriage spring maker.

June 18. BENJAMIN BROWN, Newtown, Montgomeryshire, coach builder.—WILLIAM JAMES BUCK, Shrubland Cottages, Queen's-rd., Dalston, dealer.—JOHN CALLIS, Noble-st., Wood-st., City, victualler.—JAMES DOMING, Sea, Somersetshire, currier.—WALTER GEE, Murray-st., Hoxton, straw hat manufacturer.—OWEN GRAY, Great Tower-st., City, builder. — NATHANIEL HEDGE, Bath, silversmith.—CHARLES O'NEIL, Golden-sq., picture dealer.—ASHER PRIOR, and WILLIAM PRIOR, Tonbridge-pl., New-rd., ironmongers.—HENRY WOOLLEY, Newton-heath, Lancashire, oil and grease manufacturers.

June 21. BENJAMIN BRUNTON BLACKWELL, Verulam-buildings, Gray's-inn, coffee-house keeper.—RICHARD COPLAND, Union-street, Whitechapel, linendraper.—SAMUEL GILLATT, Chapel-street, Grosvenor-square, builder.—WILLIAM HENRY GRIFFITHS, Newtown, Montgomeryshire, ironmonger. — WALTER JAMES BEAUFORT, Breconshire, provision dealer.—WILLIAM MURDOCH, Bristol, draper.—JOHN MURRAY, Sunderland, ship chandler.—THE GENERAL COMMISSION, SHIP, LOAN, AND INSURANCE COMPANY.—HENRY, WILLIAM, and JAMES WELCH, Great Distaff-lane, City and Mile-end, builders.

June 25. JAMES NEWLAND BAKER, Alton, Herts., auctioneer.—JOHN BARKER, Manchester and Salford, victualler.—JOHN BARNARD, Stanford-rivers, Essex, baker. — HUGH HUGHES, Portmadoc, Carnarvonshire, shipowner—JOHN HUNT, Middleton, Lancashire, silk manufacturer.—T. CHEATWOOD JONES, Blackfriars-road, linendraper.—ELIZABETH APPLETON PEAKOME, Princes-street, Cavendish-square, saddler.—CLEMENT PRETTY, Leicester, grocer.—JOHN RICHARDSON, Edgeware-road, ironmonger.—SAMUEL TAYLOR, Staines, Middlesex, grocer.—WILLIAM TYTHER, Birmingham, tallow-chandler.—JOHN WHITE, Dudley, Warwickshire, innkeeper.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

May 25. DANIEL BISHOP, York-street, St. James'-square, wine merchant.

June 5. JOHN MOODY, Aldersgate-street, City, stock manufacturer.

June 8. WILLIAM HARRIS, and HENRY HARRIS, Wrexham, Denbighshire, paper manufacturers.

June 19. THOMAS CROFT, Whitechapel-road, stable keeper.

THE STOCK AND SHARE MARKETS.

City, June 27.

The English Stock Market has been very buoyant in tone during the month, and prices have experienced a considerable rise, notwithstanding the anxiety caused, till within the last few days, by the unsettled state of our relations with France. Consols were quoted on the 29th of May at $96\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$, and went gradually up to $97\frac{5}{8}$, at which they shut for the dividend. They are at present quoted 96 to $96\frac{1}{8}$ with the dividend off.

Railway Shares, notwithstanding some degree of depression which has occasionally been shown in the market, have continued firm during the month, and, for the principal stocks, an advance has been established over last month's prices. Much animation prevailed during the first part of the month, but the market is now quiet and inactive.

STOCKS.

	Prices during the Month.		
	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols	$97\frac{5}{8}$	96	Shut.
Three per Cent. Consols (for account, 17th July), *ex. div.*	$96\frac{1}{4}$	$95\frac{5}{8}$	96
Three per Cent. Reduced	$96\frac{5}{8}$	95	$96\frac{1}{4}$
Three and a quarter per Cents.	$98\frac{3}{8}$	$96\frac{7}{8}$	$97\frac{7}{8}$
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{3}{16}$	$8\frac{1}{4}$
Bank Stock	209	$206\frac{3}{4}$	209
India Stock, for account	269	269	269
South Sea Stock	$107\frac{1}{4}$	$107\frac{1}{4}$	$107\frac{1}{4}$
Exchequer Bills	71*s.* prm.	66*s.* prm.	69*s.* prm.
India Bonds	90*s.* prm.	80*s.* prm.	90*s.* prm.

RAILWAYS.

Paid.		Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
100	Bristol and Exeter	67	63	$65\frac{1}{2}$
50	Caledonian	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{3}{8}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$
20	Eastern Counties	$7\frac{5}{8}$	$7\frac{1}{8}$	$7\frac{1}{4}$
24	Great Northern	$11\frac{1}{8}$	$9\frac{5}{8}$	$10\frac{5}{8}$
100	Great North of England	230	222	230
100	Great Western	60	$54\frac{1}{2}$	$59\frac{1}{2}$
50	Hull and Selby	$97\frac{1}{2}$	95	$97\frac{1}{2}$
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	42	36	36
50	Leeds and Bradford	95	$92\frac{1}{2}$	94
100	London and Brighton	84	80	$83\frac{1}{4}$
100	London and North Western	$110\frac{1}{4}$	103	109
100	London and South Western	65	$58\frac{1}{2}$	$59\frac{1}{2}$
100	Midland	38	34	37
$17\frac{1}{2}$	North Staffordshire	$8\frac{1}{8}$	$6\frac{5}{8}$	$6\frac{3}{4}$
$33\frac{1}{3}$	South Eastern	$15\frac{3}{4}$	$13\frac{3}{4}$	$14\frac{3}{4}$
25	York, Newcastle, and Berwick	$15\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{3}{8}$	$15\frac{1}{4}$
50	York and North Midland	$17\frac{3}{4}$	$16\frac{1}{4}$	$16\frac{1}{4}$

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, June 27.

A steady business has been done in English and foreign wheat and other grain during the month, and prices have been firmly supported, but without any important variation from last month's rates. The London averages last announced are as follows:—

Wheat, per quarter, 43*s.* 4*d*
Barley, 24*s.* 4*d.*
Oats, 18*s.* 2*d.*

Flour, Town made, delivered, per sack, 32*s.* to 38*s.*
„ American, per barrel, of 196 lbs., 20*s.* to 27*s.*

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt.—Waterford, 44*s.* to 60*s.*; Belfast, 40*s.* to 42*s.*
Beef, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*
Butter, per cwt., Carlow, 1st, 66*s.* to 68*s.*; Waterford, 1st, 63*s.* to 66*s.*; Leer, 56*s.*
Cheese, per cwt.—American, 34*s.* to 43*s.*; Dutch (Gouda), 34*s.* to 41*s.*
Eggs, per 100, 4*s.* to 8*s.*
Hams, per cwt.—American, dried, 34*s.*; Limerick, 64*s.* to 70*s.*; Belfast, 58*s.* to 64*s.*
Lamb, per 8 lbs., 3*s.* 8*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*
Mutton, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
Potatoes, per ton.—Yorkshire P. Regents, 60*s.* to 100*s.*; Scotch cups, 60*s.* to 70*s.*; Belgian Whites, 55*s.* to 60*s.*
Pork, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 8*d.*; American, new, per barrel, 40*s.*
Veal, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 8*d.*

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt.—Trinidad 35*s.* to 46*s.*
Coffee.—Good ord., Native Ceylon, per cwt., 42*s.* to 43*s.*; good ord. West India, 37*s.* to 40*s.*
Sago, per cwt., Pearl, 19*s.* to 26*s.*
Rice, per cwt., Bengal white, 9*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.*; Java, 11*s.* to 12*s.*
Sugar, per cwt., Loaves, 48*s.* 6*d.* to 50*s.*; good Jamaica, 35*s.* 6*d.* to 38*s.* 6*d.*; Brazil, 32*s.* to 42*s.*
Tea, per lb. (duty 2*s.* 1*d.*), ord. Congou, 10*d.* to 10½*d.*; Souchong, com. to fine, 10*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*; ord. to fine Hyson, 1*s.* 1*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.*: Imperial, 1*s.* 1*d.* to 2*s.* 5*d.*

Candles, per 12 lbs. 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* | Coals per ton, 11*s.* to 15*s.* 9*d.*

OILS.

Pale Seal, per ton, 31*l.* to 31*l.* 10*s.*
Sperm, 84*l.* to 86*l.*
Cod, 35*l.*
Palm, 30*l.* to 31*l.*

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Monthly Supplement to "*HOUSEHOLD WORDS*," *Conducted by CHARLES DICKENS.*

THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1850.] FROM THE 29TH JUNE TO THE 27TH JULY. [PRICE 2*d.*

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

SIR ROBERT PEEL was frequently reproved by his party-friends, while he lived, for his eager wish to merit posthumous fame. It was said to be little better than the aspiration of a heathen; and on one occasion of his avowal of it, in connection with his support of mechanics' institutes and reading-rooms for working men at Tamworth, he was denounced as the confessed disciple of a school of philosophy not accepting Christian principles as the guide of life. Posthumous fame proves, nevertheless, no un-impressive or un-Christian example to the generation which profited by Sir Robert Peel's statesmanship, and now deplores his death; nor has any incident in the general sorrow been more note-worthy than the eager offerings from working men, exhibiting them mindful of the services and sacrifices of a statesman who had a steady regard for their mental as well as material welfare, who always upheld the duty of providing them with the means of recreation and manly amusements, and who would have carried instruction and knowledge, as he had already brought unwonted plenty, to the humblest homes. Perhaps our age has never given so good a proof of the capacity of good that is in it, as by this unexampled and all-pervading feeling of regret for Sir Robert Peel. Every class, from the throne to the cottage, has expressed it; it has not only found a voice in our own but in foreign legislatures; the most bitter enmities have been laid aside in its presence; and, throughout all the leading cities of England, there has been but the generous contention of doing most honour to the dead. In no respect more fitly could have closed a career unusually marked by vicissitudes of opinion and esteem, but very generally felt at length to have been animated by nothing so much as by the common welfare and regard to justice. Nor have we, in this case, to apply the sarcastic remark of Bacon, that "Good things never appear in their full beauty till they have turned their backs and are passing away;" for Sir Robert Peel had lived down his detractors, and become conscious of his reward. His last legislative triumph had cleared up questionable motives in his previous course; and few candid or intelligent men any longer doubted that his public changes had been a series of progressive developments prompted by duty, guarded as well as justified by experience, and forming a character, on the whole, nobly consistent in its apparent inconsistencies. If we would really estimate what we owe, in the way of moral as well as political example, to the man who began life in the service of the aristocracy and ended it in that of the people, we have but to contemplate the opposite picture of a people's advocate closing his career as the champion of aristocratic privilege. Sir Robert Peel's last injunction was that his children should not receive titles or pensions for any supposed services their father might have rendered. Lord Brougham's latest speech was a cry of alarm for the safety of society, should titles, salaries, or pensions be in the least abated, in number or amount.

The least worthy of these two examples would nevertheless appear to have been followed in the ministerial proposition to give twelve thousand a-year to the son of the deceased Duke of Cambridge, irrespective of any income from his father's savings, or from his own present enjoyment of a coloneley and prospective hopes of a field-marshaley. Homely people are disposed to put this matter in a mathematical form, and to ask, If the grandsons of a king are now entitled to as much as the sons of a king until now received, What in fairness should the children of a queen have in future, when their turn for a vote shall come? But an immense majority of the House of Commons were more eager to give the sum demanded than to discuss its expediency or justice. They have also persisted in the extravagance of the African blockade; and, in the teeth of proof that slave exports have more than doubled in amount, and that even the horrors of the middle passage have been aggravated, during our thirty years' costly experiment against both, have flung away an additional ten thousand pounds upon the purchase of five miserable Danish forts, for trial of whether a blockade by land will help our powerless blockade by sea, and whether the command of a hundred and fifty more miles of pestiferous swamp and jungle will enable us to do what with a sweep of seventeen hundred miles on the same murderous coast we have hitherto failed to accomplish. Nor has the House of Commons had much hesitation in renewing the very great present charges for the very distant future advantages of Labuan; though the senators who have hitherto upheld Sir James Brooke as a model of exalted superiority to all sordid considerations, must have been somewhat startled by revelations in the debate as to his eager desire for the "baronetcy" which was supposed to have been forced upon him, his anxiety for the support of the "press" to which his friends had described him loftily indifferent, his contempt for the "long-eared philanthropy" which so extravagantly petted him at starting, his denial to the mercantile community of those "generous and disinterested motives" which on trust they had so freely conceded to himself, and his scorn of the Oxford "bigots and bookworms" who glorified him into a D.C.L. when he was last in England. It would trench too gravely on our space to specify such other questionable outlays as Committees of Supply have voted during the past month; but it remarkably proves with how much more facility, in matters of this kind, an absurd custom may be supported, than a rational change can be effected, that the vote of seventeen hundred a year which began to be voted for the support of three hundred dissenting ministers a century and a quarter ago, is still carried against the scornful protest of every leading dissenter in the country as well as the House of Commons, who repudiate such a grant as an insult. It is the same precisely with the Regium Donum in Ireland. Nor do the majorities which deal thus freely with the public money appear to be more careful of the manner in which it is got than of that in which it goes; for, of the thirty-five classes of persons subject to the licensing duty, they selected the other day the attorneys as alone or pre-eminently deserving of imme-

diate relief from taxation, and it was only after a hard struggle, and two defeats, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer reversed that decision.

These things are not without their use, however, in clearing the way for a correction of the present reform bill; which, judging by the tone taken on a motion to equalise the franchise in counties and boroughs by giving the right of voting in the former to occupiers of tenements of the annual value of ten pounds, cannot be far distant. The chief ministerial objection taken to a proposition so reasonable as that of thus giving the franchise to men of property and intelligence in country-places who happen to be independent of the landlords, was its having been made too late in the session for a practical result; but the House of Lords had found it meanwhile not too late to send the Irish Franchise bill back to the Commons so mutilated in its best provisions that the measure will have in all probability to be rejected, unless the compromise of a rating less than fifteen pounds can be come to, and the righteous as well as needful clause restored by which a man might be placed on the register when really entitled to the franchise, without the necessity of any further effort. In conclusive proof of the fairness of the eight pound rate, so scornfully rejected by the Upper House, it has been shown that of the three hundred and twenty-one cases of process served for rent in the transaction which led to Mr. Mauleverer's murder, there were only three tenants whom the proposed rate would have enfranchised; yet the men who now reject that rate do so with affected protestations of a desire to see both countries equal! But, unconsciously, one of the same party in the Lower House, not many days after, gave a whimsical proof that the sort of equality desired is one that should not make Ireland better, but England worse. He complained that if comparison were made of the proportion of bishops and clergy in the Church of Ireland (even deducting Lord Stanley's ten abolished bishops) with the like proportion in the Church of England, the remarkable fact would become apparent that in order to place the two countries on an equal footing the number of bishops in the English Church must be raised to a hundred and seven! This was in the debate on the Ecclesiastical Commission bill; and the speaker appeared to be quite ignorant that while thus exhibiting the episcopal enjoyments of a Roman Catholic country, he was also displaying the monstrous injustice of overlaying it with a Protestant establishment. The discussions on this bill, and the propositions of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Sidney Herbert, respectively, to create a supplementary bench of suffragan bishops and to re-organise and re-vivify cathedral establishments, have been chiefly curious for their proof of the weakness of the church party (if it may be called so) in parliament which talks so big out of doors. But that even the out-of-door talking portends very little, was made manifest in a recent gathering of some fifteen hundred agitators against the Gorham decision, when, out of all the blustering protests and denunciations indulged, the only positive object declared essential was the re-animation of Church Synods long defunct, and certain to be never again inflicted on the English people! One declaration was indeed made, to the effect that the clergy must be prepared, if need were, to give up their emoluments, and the laity must be prepared, if need were, for increased self-denial to make up the deficiency; but this proposition for an English Free Church fell from a layman, and none of the clerical agitators seconded it in the least. Its establishment, therefore, will doubtless be postponed *ad Græcas Kalendas;* or, as the Bishop of Exeter has quite as clearly expressed it in his final appeal against the institution of Mr. Gorham, "to the sacred Synod of this nation when it shall be in the name of Christ assembled as the true Church of England by representation." This, we do not doubt, will be the exact date of the bishop's surrender of his benefice, and of the institution of the Free Kirk of England.

Meanwhile the collegiate chapter of Manchester have been compelled more promptly to surrender their gross and glaring mal-appropriation of ecclesiastical wealth, by an excellent act of parliament formerly described in this Narrative, and of which the success may encourage other reformers throughout the kingdom, more bent than Mr. Sidney Herbert and Mr. Gladstone on the real reform of church abuses, to expose and correct the enormous abuses existing in cathedral corporations. The Manchester Rectory Division bill has been more successful than other measures which had as hard a struggle in both houses. The County Courts bill, for example, after escaping the shoals and quicksands of a committee in the House of Lords, and weathering the more open danger of some half-dozen amendments, and coming out in a not much more mutilated state than Sir John Jervis had already reduced it to in the Commons, received a sudden side-blow at the third reading from Lord Brougham, which, seconded heartily by the new Lord Chancellor, fairly knocked out all the little breath that remained in its body, and left it so many empty words. Lord Brougham carried an amendment giving a concurrent jurisdiction to the superior courts in actions for sums above twenty pounds. This practically makes the attorney arbiter in the action; and how many attorneys will be satisfied with two pounds costs in a lower court, when to go into an upper court will secure fifteen! The bill is substantially defeated; and might as well have been at once consigned to that limbo of dropped or defeated measures which during the last month has received the Jewish Relief bill, the Irish Vice-Royalty Abolition bill, the Railway Audit and Woods and Forests bills, the Merchant Seamen's Fund bill, the Irish Landlord and Tenant bill, and (more to be deplored than any of the rest) the Security for Advances bill.

The delay of the latter measure, which would greatly have assisted the operation of the Irish Encumbered Estates act by facilitating the advance of money on landed securities, is of evil omen for Ireland; and rumours of the probable partial failure of the harvest and potato crops have added to the gloom prevailing there. Even in England we have a less favourable report in this respect than prevailed last month; though there appears to be a certainty of average crops, and still the possibility of abundant ones, while of the general good condition of the country and its prospects there exists ample and most favourable testimony. Whether tested by the quarterly returns of the Revenue, by the monthly reports of the Board of Trade, by the stock of bullion in the Bank, by the apparent overflow of capital in all directions, or by the more humble but not less satisfactory details of the second annual Poor Law report which has been lately issued, we have the same happy and uniform results. Greater abundance of food and employment has decreased the number of able-bodied adults receiving in-door and out-door relief by nearly thirty-two thousand beneath the returns of last year. The increase in the whole income of the year over that of its predecessor is not far short of a million and a quarter. And comparing the exports of the month of May with those of the same month in even the railway years of exaggerated and unreal prosperity, we have the prodigious increase of something more than a third. Perceiving such results from free trade, it may well be matter of congratulation that the result of the debate on Lord Palmerston's foreign policy should have secured the continuance of a free trade government by a sufficiently decisive majority; and Mr. Ferrand's continued denunciations of the "blood-stained serpents" of

Lancashire, by which he means Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright, will probably be received by those gentlemen with nothing graver than a good-natured smile. The hair-brained agitator having enlisted Lord Downshire in his "wool-gathering" league against the cotton "fiends," this worthy pair have perambulated the country districts with the most surprising statements,—such as that the cotton trade necessitates the murder of three hundred negroes in America every year; that tens of thousands of people in Manchester subsist on a penny a-head per day; that the manufacturing population is obliged to pawn its night-clothes to redeem its day-clothes, and to pawn its day-clothes to redeem its night-clothes; and that the misty clouds of free-trade theories are shrinking away and disappearing before the advancing blaze of protectionist day! It will nevertheless require statements more surprising even than these to enforce belief that the power-looms of Manchester can be smashed by a few old women's spinning-wheels; and, meanwhile, not only have the House of Commons refused, by a majority of two to one, to repeal the malt-tax, but the town of Chester has declined, by nearly the same majority, to send a protectionist to the House of Commons; and the other busy and thriving places vacated by the late legal appointments have not even allowed an opposition to show itself to the re-election of their free-trade representatives.

A few words upon leading matters of social legislation will suffice to complete our summary of the past month's doings. The Commons have passed the bill legalising marriage with deceased wives' sisters, but it has been dropped in the Lords. The Lords have passed the Sunday Trading bill condemned in our last Narrative, and the Commons seem disposed to accept it. Mr. Ewart has failed in his annual effort to abolish capital punishment; but, in the man's conviction and transportation who struck the Queen, the administration of criminal law has exhibited the improved example of rejecting a plea of insanity on proof of the accused's power of discrimination between right and wrong in the special matter under investigation. At the same time it is impossible to dismiss this case without a passing remark on the ill-considered and mischievous passage in Mr. Baron Alderson's address to the prisoner, informing him that he would not be whipped because of his station in life, and the "respect" the court had for his family and for him, if he had none for himself. The Lords have passed the Factory bill without alteration; and not only have both Lords and Commons refused to sanction any change of the Hyde Park site for next year's grand exposition, but the Attorney-General has refused his sanction to a petition for trying its legality before the Chancellor. There is no change, as yet, in those postal arrangements by which an active minority of Sabbatarians have inflicted pains and penalties on the great mass of their less active fellow-citizens; but a committee has been named to report as to the means of reducing Sunday labour without altogether stopping the transmission of letters, and meanwhile the Sabbatarians are relaxing nothing of their energy in following up the advantages they have gained. This makes it matter of graver concern than it otherwise might have been if the Sunday Trading bill shall succeed in getting through the Commons. Such things are easier done than undone, and the screw once inserted is with difficulty withdrawn. The present measure may be less objectionable in form than many of its predecessors; but a thing bad in substance is not bettered by the show of being less bad than it really is, and even this pretence will be dropped when it has served its turn. The mere penalties affixed to the offences of trading, operating unequally between the rich and poor offender, will have the effect of the most monstrous injustice; and the bill sanctions, quite as much as its worst precursor, the gross and intolerable hypocrisy of interfering with one kind of Sunday labour, and leaving another kind, far more extensive and involving more hardship to the poor, entirely unchecked and uncared for.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

ON Thursday the 27th of June in the HOUSE OF LORDS the Marquis of LANSDOWNE brought up the Report of the Committee on the subject of providing *Accommodation for Foreign Ministers;* which was to the effect that the lower portions of the Peers' galleries should be set apart for that purpose. The Duke of WELLINGTON expressed his satisfaction with the Report, which was received.

On Monday the 1st of July, the house went into committee on the *Parliamentary Voters* (Ireland) *Bill.* The Earl of DYSART moved that 15*l.* should be substituted for 8*l.* as the minimum qualification for tenants; contending that an 8*l.* qualification would give an undue preponderance to the town populations. The Marquis of LANSDOWNE opposed the motion, enlarging upon the necessity of placing the representation of Ireland on a real and substantial basis.—Lord STANLEY affirmed that an 8*l.* qualification would throw into the scale the weight of numbers against property, and place one-fifth of the representation of the United Kingdom in the hands of demagogues and agitators.—Lord BROUGHAM maintained that the people of Ireland who would be admitted to the franchise by an 8*l.* qualification are not on the same footing with the similar class in England and Scotland in the qualities necessary for its due exercise. After some further discussion, the 15*l.* qualification was carried against the government by 72 to 50.

The Earl of HARROWBY, on Tuesday the 2nd, moved for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the *Expenditure of the Public Money for purposes of Education.* Reviewing the controversy between the National Society and the Committee of Council on Education, he argued that by the present system of supervision the education of the people was checked, and the privileges of the church invaded.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE affirmed, from official knowledge, that the system of inspection worked well, and that its advantages were more and more generally acknowledged. He objected besides to the appointment of a select committee at so late a period of the session that it could have no practical result. After a discussion in which the motion was supported by the Bishops of Salisbury and Oxford, and by Lord Stanley, and opposed by Lord Kinnaird and the Earl of Carlisle, it was negatived by 31 to 26.

The *Death of Sir Robert Peel* occupied the house at its meeting on Thursday the 4th. An eloquent tribute to his memory was paid by the Marquis of LANSDOWNE, whose sentiments were warmly echoed by Lord Stanley, Lord Brougham, the Duke of Wellington, and the Duke of Cleveland.—The Duke of WELLINGTON (who was affected to tears) mentioned the love of truth as the strongest feature in the character of his friend. "In the whole course of my communication with him," said the Duke, "I never knew an instance in which he did not show the greatest attachment to truth, and I never saw in the whole course of my life the smallest reason for doubting that he stated anything which he did not firmly believe to be the fact."—Lord CAMPBELL presented a petition against the *Selection of Hyde Park as the site of the intended Exhibition* from an architect who had built a number of houses in the neighbourhood and affirmed that they would be rendered unsaleable.—Lord BROUGHAM objected to the proposed site on the ground of the destruction of property, and the confusion and inconvenience that would be caused to the public. There are (he said) 70,000 or 80,000 persons in London who have no visible means of subsistence; add to these the thousands from every great town in the empire, with

some good specimens of socialists and men of the red-colour, whose object it will be to ferment the mass; and how will property be safe without 1000 or 2000 additional police? and how are they to be trained and disciplined in time? It is impossible to believe that the beautiful pillars, the elegant arcades, the magnificent dome, and the ornamental architecture, will be removed as a whole when once put up; but even if it be, to put it there for months, and to cut down groves of elms forty years old, is too monstrous an interference with the rights of the public. He referred to Justice Creswell's opinion (quoted by Lord Campbell) that the proceeding would be illegal; recommended Battersea fields as a proper place, and moved that the petition should be referred to a select committee.—Lord GRANVILLE opposed the motion; and made a statement of the reasons for choosing Hyde Park, founded on a letter of the Exhibition Commissioners to the Treasury. Eventually Lord Brougham withdrew his motion.

On Friday the 5th, the house went into Committee on the *Parliamentary Voters* (Ireland) *Bill*. Lord STANLEY moved an amendment to the effect that all persons entitled to claim the franchise should have an option either to be placed on the register or not. The Marquis of LANSDOWNE, in opposition, contended that the franchise was a trust, and that those who were entrusted with it should use it. After a discussion the amendment was carried by 53 to 39.

On Monday the 8th, on the question of the commitment of the *General Board of Health Bill*, the Earl of LONSDALE moved that the bill be referred to a select committee to inquire whether the provisions in the Public Health act, relative to confirming provisional orders, had been observed.—The Earl of CARLISLE opposed this amendment, which was negatived by 47 to 18, and the bill was committed.—In moving the second reading of the *County Courts Extension Bill* Lord BEAUMONT adverted to the success of the County Court system, and said that he would defer considering the objections to particular clauses in the new bill till it was in committee.—Lords BROUGHAM and CAMPBELL approved generally of the measure, with some qualifications. The bill was then read a second time.

When the house met on Tuesday the 9th, the Marquis of LONDONDERRY moved an adjournment as a mark of respect to the memory of the *Duke of Cambridge*.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE opposed the motion, as interfering with the proposal he was about to make, that addresses of condolence should be presented to Her Majesty and the Duchess of Cambridge.—The Marquis of LONDONDERRY withdrew his motion, and the addresses of condolence were agreed to.

On the 15th, the house went into committee on the *Factories Bill*. The Earl of HARROWBY moved the insertion of a clause limiting the labour of children to the extent proposed in the case of women and young persons. It was opposed by Lord Granville and Lord Stanley, and negatived by 58 to 25.—The Duke of RICHMOND moved an amendment, to the effect of limiting the hours of labour, in the case of women and young persons, to ten hours a day. He denounced the compromise proposed to be effected by the bill, and declared his intention of undertaking the charge of the measure, should it be abandoned by the government, in consequence of the adoption of his amendment.—The Bishop of RIPON opposed the bill and supported the original ten hours act.—Lord FEVERSHAM also opposed the bill, and called upon Earl Grey to say whether he was prepared now, as on a former occasion, to support the Ten Hours bill.—Earl GREY explained the circumstances under which he had supported the original bill—circumstances which did not at all prevent him from giving his adhesion to the present measure.—Lord Stanley supported the amendment, and the Bishop of Manchester and the Marquis of Lansdowne opposed it. It was negatived by 52 to 39.

Lord BROUGHAM gave notice, on the 16th, of a motion for a return of the amount of *Savings in the Civil List*, since 1838. He complained of intended reductions in diplomatic and judicial salaries whereby, he said, the ruin of our home service would keep pace with that of our foreign affairs. He mentioned the case of a lady of the highest rank who had been reduced to the necessity of advertising for necessary employment; he was of opinion that the aristocracy would be degraded.

Lord PORTMAN moved the second reading of the *Landlord and Tenant Bill*, and Lord BEAUMONT moved, as an amendment, the second reading in six months. The amendment was carried without a division, and the bill consequently lost.

On the 19th, the Earl of CARLISLE moved the third reading of the *Inspection of Coal Mines Bill*.—Lord BROUGHAM objected to it as interfering with the employment of capital and labour.—The Earl of CARLISLE said the measure was justified by the specialties of the case, its object being to prevent the recurrence of the appalling accidents which had taken place. The bill was read a third time and passed.

The Earl of EGLINTON moved that the parties concerned in affixing fictitious signatures to petitions respecting the *Liverpool Waterworks Bill*, should attend at the bar of the house on Monday.

On the third reading of the *Factories Bill* the Earl of HARROWBY moved the insertion of a clause, restricting the labour of children within the same hours as those fixed for women and young persons. It was negatived by 30 to 24, and the bill passed.

On Monday the 22nd, Joseph Byrne, Joseph Hinde, and Duncan M'Arthur were placed at the bar of the house charged with *Breach of Privilege*, in having been engaged in getting up fictitious signatures to petitions respecting the Liverpool Waterworks bill. The evidence taken on this subject before the committee of the house having been read, the parties were examined and admitted the facts laid to their charge. The LORD CHANCELLOR moved that they were guilty of a high breach of privilege, and that they should be committed to the custody of the Usher of the Black Rod; which was ordered. It was then agreed on the motion of Earl GREY that a select committee be appointed to inquire whether the parties who got up the petitions were cognisant of the fraud.—On the following day, the 26th, the prisoners Byrne, Hinde, and M'Arthur, were brought to the bar, reprimanded by the Lord Chancellor, and discharged.

The *County Courts Extension Bill* having been read a third time, Lord BEAUMONT moved an amendment to the effect that certain clerks of county courts who had given up freehold offices and held their present offices by a similar tenure, should be irremoveable under the bill. This amendment was opposed by Lord BROUGHAM, but the Lord Chancellor was favourable to it; and it was carried by 19 to 13.—Lord BROUGHAM proposed to strike out some words which would have the effect of giving a concurrent jurisdiction in the superior courts for sums between 20*l*. and 50*l*.; which, after some discussion, was agreed to. The bill then passed.

An address was unanimously voted to Her Majesty, on Tuesday the 23rd, in reply to the royal message relative to a provision for the *Duke and Princess Mary of Cambridge*.—A number of bills were then read a third time and passed.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE, in reply to a question, intimated that it was not the intention of government to renew the *Alien Act*. The present state of the country did not render it necessary, though he was far from saying that it might not be necessary hereafter.

On Thursday, the 25th, the Earl of ST. GERMANS moved that the order of the day for the second reading of the *Marriages Bill* should be discharged. He said that the bill would be withdrawn for the present session, and that he hoped the members would calmly consider the subject before they met next year. After some discussion on what was understood to be the state of public opinion with respect to this measure, the order of the day was discharged.—A petition was presented from the persons committed to Newgate for *Breach of Privilege*, expressing contrition; and Lord BEAUMONT gave notice that he should move next day that the prisoners be brought to the bar, admonished, and discharged.

On Thursday, the 27th of June, in the HOUSE OF COMMONS, the adjourned debate on Mr. Roebuck's resolution expressive of *Confidence in the Foreign Policy of the Government*, was resumed by Sir John WALSH, who regarded Lord Palmerston's speech, though a great

effort of eloquence and mental power, insufficient to justify his course of foreign policy. The motion was also opposed by Sir Henry Verney.—Sir Robert INGLIS would have felt more difficulty as to his vote had the question been confined to our policy with regard to Greece, but he was compelled to withhold his support from a resolution which gave unqualified praise to the foreign policy of the government.—The Marquis of GRANBY opposed the motion. The talents and patriotism, he said, of Lord Palmerston were admitted and admired; but the greater those talents the greater the danger of their misapplication. Admit his desire to promote the interests, dignity, and honour of England, still his mode of effecting his object had insulted every nation, alienated all our allies, and left us without a friend on the continent of Europe.—Sir William MOLESWORTH reminded the house that it was sitting as a court of solemn appeal to confirm or reverse the Judgment of the Peers. If the vote of confidence were given, the ministers would be required to persevere in the present policy and the people would be pledged to support them. He held it to be a vague and dangerous principle that the protection and shield of England is to be extended to her wandering sons who are carried by commerce, pleasure, or necessity, over the world. The true rule rather was, that if a British subject think proper to wander where pleasure or profit may tempt him, he must take the consequences, and the more despotically, or the worse governed a country might be, the less entitled should the British subject be to expect that the Secretary for Foreign Affairs should be at hand to protect him. Sir W. Molesworth objected to interference with the internal affairs of foreign states; he objected to instructing ambassadors to become the chiefs of foreign political parties, to sending envoys as wandering lecturers on the principles of constitutional government. Such things caused us to be looked on as an officious meddling nation, and to be hated by all parties in all nations alike. Many condemned the foreign policy, but feared that if the motion were lost the ministry would resign. If they did resign, he did not believe that men qualified to take their places could not be found among the liberal party; but, supposing the disagreeable alternative of the gentlemen opposite coming into power, he did not believe that they who have so large a stake in the prosperity of the country—that the landed gentlemen under leaders of the abilities of Lord Stanley and Mr. D'Israeli, would pursue a policy leading to confusion, revolution, and destruction of property. Liberal opinions were not to be upheld by sacrificing convictions to avert a political inconvenience. If there was a dissolution of of parliament, why not? Many of them desired triennial parliaments, and the three years had expired. But some of them would lose their seats: so much the better, the assumption being that they did not represent their constituents. Sir William concluded by avowing himself a cordial supporter of the domestic policy of the government; but he had protested ten years ago against their foreign policy. His views were unchanged, and, therefore, without hesitation though with regret, he should vote against the motion.—Mr. ADAIR supported the motion, and affirmed that our foreign policy, from its beneficial effects, was agreeable to the commercial, manufacturing, and middle classes generally, and that if there was any one point on which the movement party would support the government, it was their foreign policy.—Mr. Sidney HERBERT, in opposing the motion, dwelt chiefly on the affairs of Italy; ascribing the violent and revolutionary scenes in that country to the mission of Lord Minto, and other propagandist proceedings of the English government.—Mr. GLADSTONE blamed the prime minister for sitting down under the censure of the House of Lords, and leaving to Mr. Roebuck the task of vindicating the policy of government. He discussed in great detail the various points of the Greek question, and objected to the course pursued by Lord Palmerston in that dispute, and in the transactions connected with the mediation of France. On the subject of our conduct towards other nations, he affirmed that Lord Palmerston's policy had been that of constant interference. No one could deny that on fit occasions British influence might be beneficially used to extend institutions from which we derive so much advantage; but we were not to make occasions and become propagandists of political doctrines, even though they might be sound. Adverting to Lord Palmerston's allusion to the condition of a Roman citizen—to the triumph with which he could say, "Civis Romanis sum," Mr. Gladstone asked, what was a Roman citizen? A Roman citizen was the member of a privileged caste, of a victorious and conquering nation, of a nation that held all others bound down by the strong arm of power—which had one law for him and another for all the rest of the world, which asserted in his favour principles which it denied to all others. Was such the view of the noble lord as to the relation of the English towards all the rest of the world? Did he claim for us that we are to stand on a platform, as it were, high above all other nations? It was clear from the whole, not merely expression, but spirit, of the noble viscount's speech, that such is his impression; that he thinks we are to be the censor of the vice and follies of all the peoples of the world, the teacher of the nations, and that all who do not think proper to admit the assumption, must have diplomatic war declared against them. And certainly, if the business of a Foreign Secretary was merely to carry on diplomatic war, all must admit the perfection of the noble lord in the discharge of his functions. But it was not the duty of a Foreign Minister to be like a knight-errant, ever pricking forth, armed at all points, to challenge all comers, and lay as many adversaries as possible sprawling, or the noble lord would be a master of his art; but to maintain that sound code of international principles which is a monument of human wisdom, and a precious inheritance bequeathed by our fathers for the preservation of the future brotherhood of nations.—Mr. Henry DRUMMOND disapproved equally of the foreign policy of Lord Palmerston, and of his immediate predecessors, but he would not join in a run against him to serve the purpose of a faction. He would not vote against the motion, to gratify Lord Stanley and Sir James Graham.—The debate was then adjourned.

On Friday the 28th the debate was resumed.—Mr. COCKBURN said that the question consisted of two parts, the interference of government in the affairs of Greece, and their policy with regard to other foreign states. They interfered with Greece to obtain redress of certain wrongs admitted to have been sustained by British subjects, and it was their bounden duty to do so. In the cases of Messrs. Finlay and Pacifico it had been found impossible to obtain redress from the Greek authorities, and under such circumstances the British government would have failed in its duty had it not insisted on justice being done.—Mr. COCKBURN then adverted to Lord Palmerston's policy in relation to Spain, Italy, Austria, and other states, following up the arguments previously urged by Lord Palmerston himself. He referred to the evident compromise between Sir R. Peel and the Protectionists, observing, that whatever honesty there was in it belonged rather to them than to him, and concluded by saying, "I believe the policy which Her Majesty's government have hitherto carried on to be essential to the prosperity of commerce and trade—essential to the best interests of the country, to the welfare of the people, and, above all, essential to secure a steady and abundant supply of the food which preserves the famishing; and that if I were to oppose the resolution of the honourable and learned member for Sheffield, I would be betraying the best interests of the people of this realm, and betraying the best interests of the nations of Europe—believing that I would be retarding the progress of civilisation, of humanity, and the best interests of mankind, I shall cheerfully and unhesitatingly vote in favour of the resolution."—Mr. Walpole opposed the resolution, and Mr. M. Milnes supported it.—Mr. COBDEN denied the charge of a cabal against the government, and denied that he had more sympathy with Russia, or less sympathy with the Italians and Hungarians than the warmest supporters of the government.—Sir R. PEEL said that Mr. Cockburn, in speculating upon his motives, seemed to have forgotten that a vote might be given conscientiously, and without reference to political combinations. So far from his having made any compromise with the protectionists, he was every day

more convinced that the domestic policy of the government was the only true one. He also partly approved of their foreign policy, but as he did not approve of the whole of it he could not vote for Mr. Roebuck's resolution.—Lord John RUSSELL, after discussing in considerable detail the various topics of the question, made some general observations on the principles of foreign policy. He acknowledged that it was a just rule of policy not to interfere in the domestic affairs of other nations; but that rule had not been strictly observed even by Lord Aberdeen, and it must be relaxed in cases of exigency, for an unbending rule might be the cause of war. Though, besides the general interest of mankind, it was the particular interest of this country that freedom should be extended, yet our best influence was by affording at home an example of the good effects of liberty; but it ought to be understood in Europe that we took part in neither of the extreme parties into which it was divided—neither the wildness of democracy nor the iron rule of despotism; and he begged the house to beware, lest, in censuring a government which had held that middle course, it declared in favour of one of those parties.—Mr. DISRAELI said that it was absurd to lay down a rule, that, in countries like Greece, every person calling himself a British subject might look for redress to a British admiral. Admitting the claims of Finlay and Pacifico, though exaggerated in amount, they were not better founded than a multitude of other claims which had not been enforced by line-of-battle ships. On the general topic he contended that the policy of ministers had not been calculated to sustain the honour of England, and that, so far from preserving peace, there would have been no war in Europe but for their interference. On the division, the resolution was carried by 310 against 264; majority in favour of Government, 46.

The *Site of the Exhibition* of 1851 was the subject of a conversation, on Monday the 1st instant, occasioned by questions from Col. Sibthorp and other members. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL explained the state of the legal question, stating that Hyde Park was the property of the crown, and at each accession was vested in the commissioners of woods and forests, as trustees for the public, who had a right to cut down all trees, whether mature or immature, with the sanction of the crown, but had no right to grant leases for permanent buildings. A full discussion of the subject was arranged for Thursday.

Mr. ANSTEY moved for an inquiry into the *Treatment of Mr. Smith O'Brien*, and the circumstances under which a letter from that gentleman to Mr. Anstey himself had been intercepted and opened in the colony by the local authorities.—Sir George GREY opposed the motion, and stated that the course adopted was invariably pursued towards convicts who refused tickets of leave, and that Mr. O'Brien was treated with as much lenity as circumstances would admit. The motion was negatived by 45 to 17.

The house then went into a *Committee of Supply*, and various sums were voted, chiefly for educational purposes. The vote for the British Museum caused a good deal of conversation, and severe comments were made on the management of that institution, especially in regard to the library.

When the house met on Wednesday the 3rd, Mr. HUME, after referring briefly, but with great feeling, to the *Death of Sir Robert Peel*, moved an immediate adjournment without proceeding to any business. The motion was seconded by Mr. GLADSTONE, as being the only member present who had been officially connected with Sir R. Peel. Every heart, he observed, was much too full to allow them to proceed so early to the consideration of the amount of the calamity with which the country had been visited in the premature death of his friend. "I will say, the *premature* death of Sir Robert Peel; for, although he has died full of years and full of honours, yet it is a death that in human eyes is premature, because we had fondly hoped that, in whatever position, by the weight of his ability, by the splendour of his talents and by the purity of his virtues, he might still have been spared to render us most essential services. I will only quote, as deeming them highly appropriate, those most touching and most feeling lines which were applied by one of the greatest poets of this country to the memory of a man even greater than Sir Robert Peel.

> "Now is the stately column broke,
> The beacon-light is quenched in smoke;
> The trumpet's silvery sound is still,
> The warder silent on the hill."

In the absence of a member of the Cabinet—for Lord John Russell had gone out of town and the motion seems to have come on unexpectedly—Sir W. SOMERVILLE expressed his concurrence; and the house adjourned.

On Thursday the 4th when the house assembled for the evening sitting, Lord John RUSSELL renewed the subject. When he rose to address a very full house, the members uncovered with one accord, and a solemn silence prevailed. Lord John was deeply moved—speaking with a voice faultering and at first scarcely audible. In a strain of deep sympathy he touched upon the prominent features of the public character of Sir Robert Peel—his long and large experience in state affairs, his profound knowledge, his oratorical powers, and his copious yet exact memory; and he noticed the candour and kindness evinced by him towards a political opponent in his last act in that house. Slightly glancing at his political career, and the spirit which had guided his political conduct, Lord John remarked that by the course Sir Robert had taken after the passing of the reform bill, between 1832 and 1841, he had rendered a great public service. The example of such a man, who, with a love of literature and a taste for the arts, had devoted all his energies to labour for the sake of his country, would not, he hoped, be lost upon the people of that country. The harmony which had prevailed for the last two years, and the safety which this country had enjoyed during a period when other nations were visited by calamities, had been greatly owing to the course which Sir R. Peel had thought it his duty to pursue. He concluded by saying that, if it should appear to the friends of the departed statesman desirable to take the course adopted on the death of Mr Pitt, he should give his willing support to a motion for a public funeral; or if it should be thought that the course taken in the case of Mr. Grattan should be followed, he was ready to concur in it.—Mr. GOULBURN, on the part of Sir R. Peel's family, declined, with deep gratitude, the proposition of a public funeral. He read a testamentary memorandum, written on the 8th of May, 1844, in which Sir Robert said—"I desire that I may be interred in the vault of the parish church of Drayton Bassett, in which my father and mother were interred, and that my funeral may be without ostentation or parade of any kind." And, not more than six weeks ago, he had pointed out to Lady Peel, on an inspection of the church, the spot in which he wished his body to be laid. Mr. Goulburn then suggested that the subject should drop, but Mr. HERRIES finished the conversation by expressing his belief that no remembrances of diversity in public opinion should mingle in the profound respect and sorrow which pervaded the house at the loss of one of its greatest ornaments.

Lord John RUSSELL then made an announcement respecting the *Public Business* for the remainder of the session. The lord-lieutenancy abolition (Ireland) bill, the securities for advances (Ireland) bill, the merchant seamen's fund bill, the woods and forests bill, and the railway audit (No. 2) bill, it was intended to abandon for the present session; and he did not intend to go beyond the second reading of the landlord and tenant (Ireland) bill. Amongst the bills which it was proposed to persevere with were the stamp duties bill, the ecclesiastical commission bill, the mercantile marine (No. 2) bill, the oath of abjuration (Jews) bill, and the charitable trusts bill; to which the Chancellor of the Exchequer added the savings' banks bill.

The *Site for the Exhibition of next Year* was then brought under discussion by Colonel SIBTHORP, who moved that the report of the commissioners be referred to a select committee, and that, before any further proceeding of the commissioners, the sanction of the house be given. He characterised the report as vague and unsatisfactory, and inveighed against the whole scheme. He pronounced the exhibition, by which the park is to

be desecrated, the greatest trash, the greatest fraud, the greatest imposition ever attempted to be palmed upon the people of this country—intended to bring down prices, and pave the way for the cheap and nasty trumpery system. When all the bad characters were attracted to the park, he advised people living there to keep a sharp look-out after their silver forks and spoons and servant-maids. The building would cost 200,000*l.*, and be prejudicial to the best interests of the country.—Sir Benjamin HALL moved, as an amendment, an address to the Queen, praying her to stay the erection of a building in Hyde Park. A desultory conversation followed; in the course of which Mr. R. STEPHENSON, a member of the royal commission, stated that he was at first in favour of Battersea fields as a site, but a personal examination had entirely altered his opinion; and Mr. LABOUCHERE said that the commissioners had fully stated the reasons which had induced them to deprecate any change in the existing arrangements, and that he considered the credit of the country with the nations of the world as being deeply involved in that decision. Ultimately Sir B. Hall's amendment was negatived by 166 to 47; and Colonel Sibthorp's motion was negatived by 166 to 46.

The house then, in committee of supply, discussed the proposed vote of 125,000*l.* for *Public Education*. The compulsory adoption of the management clauses of the committee of Privy Council was condemned by Mr. Miles, Lord J. Manners, Mr. Wood, Mr. Roundell Palmer, and defended by Sir G. Grey and Lord John Russell, who intimated that there should be no opposition to an inquiry into the whole matter next year in either house. The vote was agreed to.

On Friday the 5th, Mr. CAYLEY moved for leave to bring in a bill for the *Repeal of the Malt Tax*. He enlarged on the distress of the agriculturists and their claims to relief, and contended that the measure could be effected with safety to the national credit, especially as it was not proposed to bring it into operation till the 5th of April next. The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER called upon the house to consider the consequences of sacrificing a great amount of revenue for which they would be unable to find a substitute.—Mr. DISRAELI said that, as agriculture was now the only unprotected interest, it ought to be relieved of those burdens which pressed upon it exclusively, and that the repeal of the malt-tax would be a relief not only to that interest, but to the labouring classes generally.—Lord John RUSSELL observed that Mr. Disraeli's opinion was at variance with Lord Stanley, the head of the protectionist party, who had declared that he could not support the repeal of the malt-tax with a due regard to the finances of the country. On a division, the motion was negatived by 247 to 123.

On Monday the 8th, on the question of the *Mercantile Marine Bill* going into committee, Mr. MOFFATT opposed the principle of the measure. He reviewed the general difficulties of British shipping, reminded ministers that when they repealed the navigation law they promised the removal of those difficulties, and endeavoured to show that those promises had not been fulfilled; nothing having been done to relieve shipping of the burdens of lighthouse and pilotage dues, nor to cure the evils of the present system of manning the navy.—Mr. LABOUCHERE contended that the bill had been approved of by all the seaport towns in the empire except London; he said that the bill had three objects, the securing an adequate amount of skill in the masters of merchant vessels, the withdrawal of their certificates in case of incapacity, and the prevention of the wholesale desertions which now took place. He stated his intention, next session, of consolidating in a single act the whole law relating to the mercantile marine service, and expressed his hope that there might be no obstruction in the meantime to the present measure. Mr. Moffatt having withdrawn his motion, Lord John MANNERS moved that the bill be referred to a select committee, which was negatived by 120 to 34, and the bill was committed.

The house then went into committee on the *Ecclesiastical Commission Bill*, and Mr. HORSMAN moved an amendment to the first clause, to the effect that the whole commission should be limited to three paid and responsible officers, and that the fifty-two present *ex officio* members of the board should be removed. He supported his motion by a brief recapitulation of matter brought forward by him on former occasions, to show the inefficient and injurious working of the present establishment. He said, among other things, that if the committee which he demanded some time ago had been granted, he should have been able to show, from authentic evidence, that the Bishop of London now receives an income of 50,000*l.* a year. The motion was supported by Sir B. Hall, and opposed by Lord John Russell and Sir G. Grey, and negatived by 60 to 22—Mr. E. DENISON then moved that three of the commissioners should be paid, but withdrew his amendment.—On clause 13, Lord John RUSSELL moved an amendment, striking out what had been inserted in the upper house, and substituting words to unite the episcopal fund and the common fund, and to make the joint fund available for all the purposes that each has served, with some additional purposes, such as the endowment of new bishopries.—Mr. GLADSTONE complained of the cavalier manner in which the amendment of the House of Lords was thrown overboard, and charged Lord John Russell with a covert intention to abandon the pledge he had given to found three new bishoprics; for, if the two funds were blended, that pledge could not be fulfilled.—Mr. Sidney Herbert also opposed the fusion of the two funds.—Lord John Russell's amendment was supported by Mr. Henley, Sir T. Dyke Acland, and Mr. Page Wood, and carried by 163 to 111.

On the question of the *Home-made Spirits Bill* going into committee, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved that the house go into committee that day six months; and on a division the bill was thrown out by a majority of one, the numbers being 121 to 120. Colonel SIBTHORP demanded to know if the ministers dared, after such a vote, to carry on the government of the country? and the house laughed heartily.

On Tuesday the 9th, addresses of condolence on the death of *the late Duke of Cambridge* were voted to Her Majesty and to the Duchess of Cambridge.—Mr. Locke KING then brought forward the subject of the *Amendment of the County Franchise*, by moving for leave to bring in a bill to make the franchise of counties in England and Wales the same as in boroughs, by giving the right of voting to all occupiers of tenements of the annual value of 10*l.* He supported his motion briefly, insisting chiefly on the fitness and safety of giving the franchise to the class in counties who already enjoy it in boroughs, and challenging the protectionists to show the sincerity of their belief, that the great body of the people cling to protection, by giving them the opportunity to vote accordingly.—Mr. HUME in seconding the motion, reminded Lord John Russell of his admission that he is prepared to go beyond the Reform Bill of 1832, and asked him in what other direction besides this, could he make the advance with less danger.—Sir De Lacy EVANS, who had given notice of an amendment, withdrew it, that he might not peril the original motion. The motion was supported by Mr. G. Thompson, and also by Mr. DRUMMOND, who said that as he had often advocated a similar measure, he should not now oppose it, little as he liked the quarter whence it came.—Lord John RUSSELL censured the practice of bringing forward such large and important questions in the month of July; merely admitting bills to be laid on the table, with no intention of going on with them, was unworthy of the House of Commons. He commented on the general schemes of the parliamentary reformers, and called upon them, the next time they came forward, to show that the changes they advocated are consistent with the maintenance of the monarchy, the House of Lords, and the House of Commons, which are fundamental parts of our constitution, enjoying the thorough attachment of the people of this country.—Mr. KING replied: the independent members were most curiously treated, for whenever they brought forward a motion they were sure to be told it was not the time for it. He was happy to find, however, that Lord John Russell had not adduced one argument to prevent his hereafter bringing forward a measure which would even go to the extent desired by Mr. Hume. It seemed as if the noble lord only said "No" that he might

be pressed a little warmly, and refused the overture that he might yield to a stronger embrace.

"Et fugit ad salices et se cupit ante videri."

There were two parties in the house, and the noble lord was puzzled between them. On the one hand were the reformers, and on the other the anti-reformers. The noble lord turned from one to the other, and, like Captain Macheath, sang:—

"How happy could I be with either
Were t' other dear charmer away,—
But, while you both teaze me together,
To neither a word will I say."

Though the debate was thus closed, Mr. GRATTAN addressed the house on the necessity of a reform of the franchise in Ireland; and Mr. DISRAELI made Mr. Grattan's speech the occasion for attacking at great length the views of the reformers. On a division the motion was negatived by 159 to 100.

Mr. LOCKE then moved an address to Her Majesty praying for an inquiry whether the amount of *Sunday Labour in the Post Offices* might not be reduced without completely putting an end to the collection and delivery of letters, &c., on Sundays; and praying that, pending such inquiry, Her Majesty would give orders that the collection and delivery on Sundays shall be continued as heretofore. He observed that the government had not received due credit for the extent of reductions of Sunday labour which they had already effected in the post-office. Those great reductions, and others in contemplation, were in the act of being silently and satisfactorily made, when the house decided on a total suspension of all Sunday deliveries, in the vain hope that all labour would be dispensed with on that day. But there would be no real diminution in the amount of Sunday labour; and he adduced evidence that there would be merely a shifting of labour consequent on the distribution of letters and newspapers being transferred from the post-office to private hands. He showed the delay, the losses, and the embarrassments which the suspension of postal communication on Sunday would create; and asked why the suspension of labour should be limited to the post-office. The measure was a narrow, partial, and indefensible assertion of a far wider principle. Why did it not comprehend every public and every private department? Because the country would not for an instant stand the entirety of its mischief.—Mr. ROEBUCK seconded the motion, dividing the question into two distinct questions, religious and political. With the first the House of Commons had nothing to do. The Sabbath was unknown in the Christian religion; and none of the Jewish curses against a breach of the Sabbath could be directed against acts done on the Christian Sunday. The great fathers of the church, from Luther and Calvin downwards, tell us that Sunday is a "feast-day," having nothing to do with the Judaical dispensation, but set apart for human observance by human wisdom, for human purposes, on human grounds. Turning to the political question, he admitted the great benefits to man of a day of rest. The true principle was to afford relief to the greatest number; but, by interrupting the arrangements of the post-office, labour would be multiplied five-fold. The post-office, by its cheap, easy machinery, called for a small quantity of labour from the poor man; it contributed to his education and in many ways to his mental and moral amelioration; and much of its special influence was exercised on his Sunday of labour. On the ground of religion, he concluded, there was nothing to stand upon; on that of political expediency there never was a grosser blunder than the closing of the post-office on Sunday.—Lord ASHLEY insisted that the closing experiment had not had a fair trial; it had been but twenty days in operation, and nothing had been alleged to justify a reversal of the decision of the house.—Sir R. INGLIS opposed the motion, which in his opinion involved the honour of the sovereign.—Lord J. RUSSELL reminded the house that the proposition of closing the post-offices on Sunday did not meet with the support of ministers, and that they had no option but to present to Her Majesty the address of the house, which was not like a simple resolution that might be rescinded the next day. He could have wished that the question had not come on again so soon for consideration; though on the general question, he could not get over the circumstance, that here was a public department which was charged with the business of carrying the letters, and armed with the powers of the state to prevent other persons carrying them—which took upon itself to be charged exclusively with this duty—which conveyed a letter on the Saturday evening from London, informing a daughter that her father was so dangerously ill that unless she set out immediately she might never see him again or receive his blessing; and that letter, arriving in a provincial town early on the Sunday morning, was there detained twenty-four hours in the post-office, the daughter perhaps knowing of the father's illness, and suffering all the agonies of protracted anxiety during those twenty-four hours. There was the case of the Duchess of Sutherland, whose father was dying at Castle Howard; it was generally thought a very barbarous thing that she was not permitted to enter the railway carriage to arrive in time to see her father before his death. The circumstance attracted great attention owing to the rank of the two parties concerned; but that circumstance, which shocked a great many people—preventing a daughter from seeing her dying parent—we might have repeated every Sunday. There were poor families, families that could pay a penny for a letter, but could not send a telegraphic message or a parcel by the railway; and this might be occurring in fifty, or a hundred, or three hundred instances, every time we detained the letters. He concluded by proposing the omission of the last clause of the resolution, which suggested a resumption of Sunday deliveries pending the inquiry. Mr. GLADSTONE proposed the further omission of the preamble of the resolution, referring to the great public inconvenience which had arisen. Lord John RUSSELL concurred in this proposal; and the resolution, reduced by those omissions, to a simple prayer for inquiry, was put as an amendment. The house divided on the original motion, which was negatived by 233 to 92; and the amendment was then carried by 195 to 112.

On Wednesday the 10th, Mr. Stuart WORTLEY moved the third reading of the *Marriages Bill*, and Mr. WALPOLE moved its third reading that day three months.—Some debate ensued, in which there was no novelty, and the third reading was carried by 144 to 134.—A motion, by Mr. Oswald, that the bill should not extend to Scotland, was negatived by 137 to 130.

Mr. EWART brought forward his annual motion for the *Abolition of the Punishment of Death*, on Thursday the 11th. Without entering into the statistics of the question, he contended, on general grounds, that this punishment was inconsistent with the great object of all punishment—certainty—inasmuch as juries often acquitted the criminal solely through abhorrence of the penalty. He combatted the objections urged against him last year by Sir G. Grey, and contended for the substitution of secondary punishments.—Sir G. GREY went over the old grounds of opposition to the motion, which, after being supported by Mr. Bright and Mr. Adair, was negatived by 46 to 40.—Mr. F. O'CONNOR then brought forward his motion, that the house should adopt the principles embodied in *the People's Charter*, and was speaking in support of it when the house was counted out at half-past eight, there being only twenty-nine members present.

On Friday the 12th, Lord John RUSSELL moved an address to Her Majesty for a monument in Westminster Abbey, to the *Memory of Sir Robert Peel*, with an inscription expressive of the public sense of so great and irreparable a loss; and, in doing so, pronounced a warm eulogy on the character and services of the departed statesman. The motion, being put by the speaker, was carried by acclamation.—Mr. HUME moved an address to her Majesty, praying for a commission to enquire into the causes of the naval and military operations on the coast of Borneo, which had caused a lamentable loss of life among certain of the native tribes. The debate which ensued turned chiefly on the conduct of Sir James Brooke, which was severely censured by the mover, Colonel Thompson, and Mr. Cobden, and defended by Mr. Plowden, Sir H. Verney, and Sir F. Baring. The motion was negatived by 169 to 29.

The second reading of the *Attorneys' Certificates Bill* was moved on the 15th, by Lord R. GROSVENOR, who reminded the house of the circumstances under which the introduction of the bill had been carried against the government, and hoped that the house would adhere to its former resolution.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, on moving the rejection of the bill, adverted to the canvassing out of doors, and observed that if the house was prepared to repeal taxes to the amount of 100,000*l.*, there were many other taxes much fitter for remission. The general charges of the profession would not be lowered by the repeal of this duty, so that the public would derive no benefit from it.—Mr. Mullings and Mr. Muntz spoke in favour of the bill; and Mr. Bass and Mr. Goulburn against it.—Mr. BRIGHT said that though he had formerly voted in favour of the bill, yet, as a general revision of taxation must take place next session, which would be the fittest time to consider all taxes of this character, he should at present vote with the government. The second reading was carried by 239 to 122; a majority of 17 against the government.

On the 16th, at the end of the morning sitting, Mr. F. SCOTT moved that the house should adjourn till the following day in token of respect to the memory of the late *Duke of Cambridge*. After some hesitation on the part of Mr. Labouchere, the motion was agreed to.

The *Copyhold Enfranchisement Bill* was considered in committee on the 17th. Before going into committee, a motion by Sir G. STRICKLAND, that the bill be committed that day three months, was negatived by 49 to 40. In committee, several amendments were agreed to, and the chairman reported progress, in order to give Mr. Aglionby an opportunity of revising the measure; leave being given to sit again on Wednesday next.

On the motion for the second reading of the *Landlord and Tenant* (Ireland) *Bill*, Mr. S. CRAWFORD moved the second reading that day three months, and described it as "one of several bills sent down from the other house, the object of which might be described as being to facilitate extermination; and this at a time when the tenantry of Ireland were calling for a just measure of relief and protection, which would not be granted." The bill was also opposed by Mr. Bright, Mr. Anstey, and Mr. Hume. —Sir W. SOMERVILLE defended the bill against the charge of being a landlords' measure. The present system of fraudulent removal of crops called for a remedy, but he was willing to modify, in committee, any part of the bill which might be thought harsh to tenants. The debate was interrupted at six o'clock, by the SPEAKER adjourning the house.

The debate on Mr. Heywood's motion for an address, praying the issue of a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the *State of the Universities*, adjourned from the 23rd of April, was resumed on the 18th.—Mr. R. PALMER contended that there was no necessity for such a commission. There was no foundation for the assertion that the statutes of the colleges prohibit the introduction of new courses of study; and with regard to the birth preferences and local preferences in the election of fellows, &c., a just and liberal interpretation of the statutes would generally carry out the purpose of the founders. It ought not to be forgotten what the colleges themselves had already done in this respect. In the University of Oxford, within the last twenty or thirty years, no fewer than twelve out of the nineteen colleges had spontaneously adopted a sounder and more liberal interpretation of the wills of their founders and had opened the colleges to merit of every description; and the others, if a spirit of resistance were not created by ill-judged interference, would soon follow their example. The crown, without any commission or legislative interference, had a right as visitor of the colleges, to introduce improvements and correct abuses; but this power had fallen into abeyance through the neglect of the advisers of the crown.—Sir G. GREY defended the course which the government intended to pursue, and which had been announced by Lord John Russell. The government would advise the crown to issue a commission of inquiry, though they could not support Mr. Heywood's motion.—Mr. J. STUART moved an amendment to the effect that any advice to issue a royal commission of inquiry into the management of any colleges not of royal foundation was illegal and unconstitutional.—Mr. H. DRUMMOND disapproved of the commission: if the crown or the house assumed the power to inquire how corporations used their property, what was to protect the queen from an inquiry how the queen used her property? He admitted that the universities had been negligent of their duties, but this was not the way to remedy the evil.—Mr. GLADSTONE was certain that any investigation into the state of the universities would redound to their honour, but any commission to that effect would violate the principle of local freedom to which Englishmen owed their capacity for self-government. Supposing that the colleges had lagged behind the age, state interference should be delayed until the fact had been established, and then the only proper interference was an act of parliament.—Lord John RUSSELL argued for the legality and expediency of a royal commission, and concluded by saying that if the house refuse to permit the crown to make this inquiry, it will do much to keep back the universities in the course of improvement, which they themselves are willing to adopt. After some further debate Mr. Stuart withdrew his amendment.—Sir G. GREY then moved that the debate be adjourned for three months, which was carried by 160 to 138; the vote being in effect in favour of the commission.

On the order for committing the *Attorneys' Certificate Bill*, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved that the committee be deferred for three months; but the motion was negatived by 105 to 103. The bill then went through the committee, several amendments being carried after considerable discussion.

On the 19th in answer to a question from Mr. Foster, whether the *Post Office Inquiry* had commenced, Lord John RUSSELL said that it had, and that it was conducted by Lord Clanricarde, Mr. Labouchere and Mr. Grey.—The house went into committee on the queen's message respecting *a Grant to the Family of the late Duke of Cambridge*.—Lord John RUSSELL, after a variety of explanations, proposed to allow the present Duke of Cambridge the sum of 12,000*l.* per annum, and that the Princess Mary of Cambridge should have 3000*l.* per annum.—Mr. HUME objected to the amount of the allowance to the Duke of Cambridge, and moved that it should be 8000*l.* Mr. Bright concurred with Mr. Hume. The original proposition was supported by Mr. Disraeli, the Marquis of Granby and Sir H. Inglis; and the amendment was negatived by 206 to 53.—Mr. HUME then moved that the grant should be 10,000*l.*, which was negatived by 177 to 55, and the resolution was agreed to. The house then went into a committee of supply and various sums were voted. The vote of 24,080*l.* for the *Civil Establishments on the Western Coasts of Africa* met with considerable opposition. It was objected to by Mr. COBDEN, as being an unnecessary extension of our colonial establishments and a further outlay on a fresh fruitless plan for exterminating the slave trade. Mr. Cobden was supported by Mr. Hume, Mr. M. Gibson, Mr. Hutt, and Mr. Jackson; the vote was supported by Lord Palmerston, Mr. Forster, Mr. Cardwell, and Sir E. Buxton. On a division it was carried by 138 to 42.

On Monday the 22nd, Lord John RUSSELL intimated that he did not intend to proceed this session with the *Oath of Abjuration* (Jews) *Bill*, the state of the business of the house not admitting of it, but that he meant to go on with it at the earliest possible period next session.

On the motion for going into a committee of supply, Mr. HUME moved for the production of all *Despatches from British Guiana*, since May last. He produced many allegations of grievance on the part of the colonists, which he traced to the constitution of the colony, where the casting vote given to the governor rendered him independent of local control.—Lord John RUSSELL declined to enter into statements founded on despatches not yet officially received, but denied the truth of the allegation that the governor by his casting vote constantly defeated motions for reform. The motion was then negatived.

In the committee of supply a number of votes belonging to the colonial, the consular and the civil services were disposed of. The vote of 6914*l.* on account of the settlement of *Labuan*, gave rise to a long discussion, in which the conduct of Sir James Brooke was impugned by Mr.

Hume and Mr. Cobden, and defended by Mr. Aglionby, Mr. Drummond, and others. Mr. COBDEN objected to the vote for the consular establishments in *China*, and moved an amendment, which was negatived by 166 to 34.—Mr. C. LUSHINGTON objected to the vote of 1,695*l.* to distressed dissenting ministers, which was repugnant to the dissenting body itself.—Lord John RUSSELL said this was an extraordinary statement, seeing that the dissenters had been in the habit of receiving it ever since 1723. On a division the vote was agreed to by 147 to 72.

The House having resumed, the *Ecclesiastical Commission Bill* was read a third time and passed, after some discussion on certain additional clauses.

On the motion for the third reading of the *Attorneys' Certificates Bill*, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved the third reading that day three months, which was carried by 113 to 84, and the bill consequently thrown out.

On Tuesday the 23rd, the *Medical Charities* (Ireland) *Bill* was considered in committee, and several amendments were agreed to.

Colonel DUNNE moved for leave to bring in a *Bill to amend the Irish Poor Law*, explaining, that the principal design of the measure was to limit the power of giving out-door relief. Mr. P. Scrope and Major Blackall opposed the motion, and Mr. French supported it.—Sir G. GREY consented to the bill being brought in, guarding himself from being supposed, on the one hand, to be wholly against the principle of out-door relief, or, on the other, to recommend the resumption of public works on a large scale, such as were formerly commenced during the pressure of famine.—Mr. STAFFORD, in supporting the motion, expressed his regret that there was little room to doubt the failure, to a considerable extent, of the present year's potato crop in Ireland. After some further observations, leave was given to bring in the bill.

Colonel SIBTHORP moved a resolution that the *Income Tax on Tenant-farmers* should be removed after the present year.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that the cause of the farmers should not be separated from that of other industrial classes. The motion was supported by Mr. Buck, Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Wodehouse, and Mr. Disraeli.—Mr. BRIGHT adhered to his general objections to the income tax, but saw no special grievance in the case of the farmer, and looked upon the motion as a mere topic for agitation. The motion was negatived by 50 to 32.

Mr. ADAIR, having moved, on the 24th, the second reading of the *Poor Relief* (Cities and Towns) *Bill*, was prevailed upon not to press his motion at this period of the session; it having been stated by Mr. Baines and Sir G. Grey that the whole subject was under the consideration of the Poor Law Board, and would undergo the careful consideration of government during the recess.

In moving the second reading of the *Compound Householders Bill*, Sir W. CLAY explained that its object was to remove a grievance affecting a numerous class of householders. At present, if the owner of a house compounded with the parish officers for the payment of the parochial rates, the overseers had no power to return the name of the occupants to the returning officer as entitled to vote in the election of members to serve in parliament. The tenants of proprietors who, under local acts, compounded for their rates, though they occupied tenements to a higher value than 10*l.*, were not allowed to be placed upon the register only after payment of the existing rate; consequently after every rate they were obliged to make a fresh application. The effect of this system was that great numbers of persons in the metropolis and other places who, according to the spirit of the reform bill, were entitled to be upon the register were disfranchised. This bill would obviate the necessity of parties so placed making incessant claims; in short it would place them, in this respect, upon a par with county voters who, having once substantiated a claim, were not under the necessity of renewing it so long as they remained in the occupation of the same house. They were, however, relieved from none of the conditions of residence or payment of rates which were required by the reform act.—Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Spooner, and Sir H. Willoughby, opposed the bill as opening a door to fraud.—Sir G. GREY said the bill came entirely within the spirit of the reform act; and Sir E. N. Buxton also supported it. The bill was read a second time, by 80 against 24.

The second reading of the *Sunday Trading Prevention Bill* was moved by Mr. C. PEARSON, who said that the measure was not intended for the rich or the middle class, but for the working poor, whose day of rest it guaranteed from interruption, and saved them from the hardship of giving seven days' labour for six days' wages. He admitted that some of the details of the bill were objectionable, but they could be struck out in committee. The bill was read a second time.

On the 25th, Mr. BAILLIE went at some length into a statement respecting certain proclamations alleged to have been issued by Captain Watson during the disturbances in Ceylon, the signature to which had been declared by him to be a forgery; and asked Lord John Russell to lay on the table a report received from the commissioners appointed to inquire into this matter, who had pronounced the signature to be genuine.—Lord John RUSSELL said that the report of the commissioners was hurried and incomplete, but was to be followed by a fuller report accompanied by documents. When this was received the whole would be produced.

Lord NAAS moved an address, praying Her Majesty to order measures to be taken to insure immediate *Steam Communication with Australia*, and adverted to the great inconveniences of the present length of the voyage, generally 120 or 130 days, while by steam it could be accomplished in 70.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER could not consent to the motion, though he admitted the importance of the object. Government had been anxious to make an arrangement with the East India Company, but it had not been accomplished. The Peninsular and Oriental Company had made a tender to extend the steam communication to Singapore, Hong-Kong, and Australia, but the East India Company who were parties to the existing arrangement, had declined to ratify the arrangement proposed, which could not, therefore, be effected till the termination of the existing contract.—Sir J. HOGG complained that this statement was unfair to the East India Company. After some further discussion the motion was negatived.

Mr. HUME called the attention of the House to the present restrictions on the *Admission to St. Paul's Cathedral*, and observed that a more liberal system had been adopted in Westminster Abbey.—Sir G. GREY said that this subject was under consideration, with a view to the removal of these restrictions.

In committee of supply a number of votes were agreed to.

The third reading of the *Charitable Trusts Bill*, after opposition from Mr. Turner and Mr. Goulburn, was carried by 96 to 53, and the bill, with some amendments, passed.

On the 26th, in consequence of the general understanding that it was the intention of *Baron Rothschild to present himself at the table of the House of Commons* and require to be allowed to take his seat as one of the members of the City of London; long before twelve o'clock the lobbies of the House of Commons were crowded to excess by members of the Jewish persuasion, anxious to witness the arrival of the Baron. This anxiety was also manifested on the part of the members, who flocked in crowds to the house in order to be present at the novel ceremony of one of the Jewish nation presenting himself at the table of the house as one of its members, and desiring to be sworn on the Old Testament. Baron Rothschild appeared in the lobby at twelve o'clock, and was loudly cheered. The SPEAKER took the chair at twelve o'clock, when there was an unusually full attendance of members. — Baron Rothschild appeared at the bar of the house, introduced by Mr. Page Wood and Mr. John Abel Smith. As he advanced up the floor of the house to the table he was loudly cheered by members on both sides. The clerk at the table placed the customary oath in his hands and was about to swear the honourable gentleman upon the New Testament, when he was interrupted by Baron ROTHSCHILD, who said in a loud and clear voice, "I desire to be sworn on the Old Testament."—Sir R. H. INGLIS—I protest against that. Baron Rothschild was then

ordered to withdraw, and withdrew accordingly amid the cheers of the house.—Sir R. H. INGLIS then moved, as a resolution; that it had been the practice of this country ever since it had been Christian, to regard all the members of its supreme legislature, whether Lords or Commons, as bound by Christian obligations; and, therefore, when any one approached that table to take part in the deliberations of that house, he ought not to be permitted to take such part without first having taken upon him the obligations of a Christian solemnity.—Mr. HUME asked if the honourable baronet would have any objection to embody in his motion the words, that Baron Rothschild had been chosen and elected by the citizens of London. This question gave rise to considerable uproar, in the midst of which Sir R. Inglis's reply, if he made any, was lost.—A debate ensued which was adjourned to the Monday following, and Mr. B. OSBORNE gave notice that on resuming the debate, he should move, as an amendment, that Baron Rothschild, one of the members for the City of London, having presented himself at the bar of the house, and having requested that an oath should be administered to him on the Old Testament, the form which he believed to be most binding on his conscience, that the clerk of the house be directed to administer to him the oaths of allegiance and supremacy upon the Old Testament.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—June 27th. Crime and Outrage Act Continuance Bill read a third time.

28th.—Drainage and Improvement of Lands Advances Bill read a third time and passed.—Australian Colonies Bill reported.—Metropolitan Interments Bill and Board of Health Bill read a second time.

July 1st.—Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill considered in committee; Lord Dysart's amendment carried against ministers.

2nd.—Educational Grants, motion for select committee negatived.

4th.—Metropolitan Interments Bill referred to a select committee.—Larceny Summary Jurisdiction Bill read a second time.

5th.—Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill in Committee; amendment carried against ministers.—Australian Colonies Bill read a third time and passed.

8th.—General Board of Health Bill passed through Committee.—Court of Chancery (Ireland) Bill, Factories Bill, County Courts Extension Bill, and Benefices in Plurality Bill, read a third time.

9th.—Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill reported.—Electors (Ireland) Bill and Inspection of Coal Mines Bill, read a second time.—Metropolitan Interments Bill considered in Committee.—General Board of Health Bill read a third time and passed.

11th.—Benefices in Plurality Bill read a third time.—Inspection of Coal Mines Bill committed pro formâ.—Larceny Summary Jurisdiction Bill passed through Committee.

12th.—Court of Chancery Bill, Metropolitan Interments Bill, and Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill, read a third time and passed.—County Courts Extension Bill referred to a Select Committee.

15th.—County Rates Extension Bill reported.—Factories Bill considered in Committee.

16th.—Landlord and Tenant Bill thrown out on second reading.—Elections (Ireland) Bill reported.—Municipal Corporations (Ireland) Bill read a third time and passed.

18th.—Elections (Ireland) Bill read a third time and passed. County Courts Extension Bill considered in Committee.

19th.—Inspection of Coal Mines Bill and Factories Bill read a third time and passed.

22nd.—Breach of Privilege; parties committed to Newgate.—County Courts Extension Bill read a third time and passed.

23rd.—Population Bills and Militia Ballot Suspension Bill read a third time and passed.

25th.—Marriages Bill withdrawn for this session.

House of Commons.—June 28th.—Vote of Confidence; Mr. Roebuck's motion carried by 310 to 264.

July 2nd.—Landlord and Tenant Bill read a third time and passed.

4th.—Business of the Session.—Site of Exhibition; Colonel Sibthorp's and Sir B. Hall's motions negatived.—Home-made Spirits in Bond Bill read a second time.

5th.—Repeal of Malt Tax; Mr. Cayley's motion negatived.—Railways Abandonment Bill read a third time and passed.

8th.—Mercantile Marine Bill (No. 2) and Ecclesiastical Commission Bill considered in Committee.—Population Bill passed through Committee.—Home-made Spirits Bill thrown out on second reading by 121 to 120.

9th.—Mercantile Marine Bill in Committee.—Mr. Locke King's motion on the County Franchise negatived.—Mr. Locke's motion on Sunday Post-office Labour negatived, and amendment carried.

10th.—Marriage Bill read a third time.

11th.—Convict Prisons Bill read a third time and passed.—Poor Relief Bill passed through committee.—Mr. Ewart's motion against Death-punishment negatived.

12th.—Medical Charities (Ireland) Bill considered in Committee.—New writs for Tamworth, Southampton, and Devonport.—Monument to Sir R. Peel.

15th.—Mercantile Marine Bill (No. 2) considered in Committee.—Attorneys Certificate Bill read a second time.—Ecclesiastical Commission Bill considered in Committee.—Marriages Bill passed.

16th.—Mercantile Marine Bill considered in Committee.

17th.—Copyhold Enfranchisement Bill considered in Committee.—Smoke Prohibition Bill thrown out on second reading.

18th.—Mercantile Marine Bill further considered in Committee.—Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Universities; adjournment of debate carried by 160 to 138.—Attorneys Certificate Bill; motion for commitment carried against ministers; passed through Committee.

19th.—Mercantile Marine Bill further considered in Committee.—Provision for family of the late Duke of Cambridge.—Committee of Supply; vote for establishments on Coast of Africa carried.

22nd.—Mercantile Marine Bill passed through Committee.—Jews Oath of Allegiance Bill laid aside this session.—Committee of supply.—Ecclesiastical Commission Bill read a third time and passed.—Attorneys Certificates Bill thrown out on third reading.

23rd.—Medical Charities (Ireland) Bill considered in Committee.—Irish Poor Law Amendment Bill brought in.

24th.—Poor Relief (Cities and Towns) Bill withdrawn.—Compound Householders Bill, and Sunday Trading Prevention Bill, read a second time.—Copyholds Enfranchisement Bill thrown out.

25th.—Mercantile Marine Bill, and Medical Charities (Ireland) Bill considered in Committee.—Committee of supply.—General Board of Health Bill and Charitable Trusts Bill read a third time and passed.

AN illustration of the abuses in the exercise of the *Right of Petition* is to be found in a parliamentary document just issued. The Liverpool Corporation Water-Works Bill, now pending before the House of Lords, has been keenly opposed, and a petition, purporting to proceed from 18,000 rate-payers, was presented against it. In consequence of some suspicious appearances, this petition was referred to a select committee, who have reported that a great number of the names attached to the petition are spurious, and that the petitioners have no *locus standi*, and are not entitled to be heard. The following facts are extracted from the minutes of evidence:—Mr. Uriah Phipps, a law-stationer, swore that from 900 to 1000 of the signatures were in the handwriting of some copying clerk who had been employed in his own office. Mr. Arnaud, the keeper of a spirit vault, described the proceedings of five agents employed to procure signatures. He stated that these persons did their day's work in his premises. They filled up the required number of sheets with the first names that came into their heads; and then took the sheets into the yard, and threw a bucket of water over them, and over their own hats, to make it appear that they had been out, carrying the papers from place to place in the rain. Between forty and fifty agents were employed at 4*s.* 6*d.* a day each, and a diligent agent was expected to bring in three sheetsfuls of names in a day. One of these men was in the habit of going to the first house in a court, ascertaining the names of the inhabitants and putting them all down; another avowed that he never troubled himself about getting rate-payers to sign after the first day: "When I found the thing was so slightly slurred over, I thought it would be useless to take so much trouble." This man, whose name is M'Arthur, also gave evidence, which showed that his employers could scarcely have been ignorant of his mode of proceeding. This appears from the following extract:—"When you have been employed in getting signatures for other petitions in Liverpool, have you acted in the same manner as this case?—Yes; it is quite a common custom. To draw upon your imagination?—Yes. It is a common custom, when you are employed in Liverpool to get signatures to a petition, to retire to a public-house, and make out an imaginary list?—Yes. The parties employing us expect a physical impossibility. If they do not know that, common sense ought to teach them." The Lords' committee conclude their report by saying that "they were imperatively called upon to take measures that might have a tendency to deter, for the future, such shameful practices as would inevitably (if continued) render the right of petitioning

(so valuable to the subjects of this empire) a perfect farce." It will be seen in our parliamentary narrative that this matter was taken up by the House of Lords on the 23rd.

A deputation of London weekly newspaper proprietors waited on the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Postmaster-General on the 3rd, to induce the government to rescind the last *Post Office Regulations as to Sunday Deliveries*. In reply to their representations the marquis said that his own opinion and that of the government was, that the arrangements in question would be inconvenient, yet there were objections to the crown opposing the wishes of the people, as expressed by their representatives; that though it might be said that the vote did not really represent the feeling of the country, yet it had not been hastily brought forward, and there had been sufficient time to oppose it; that, however, he believed the matter would be again brought forward on an early day, and if the House of Commons chose to reverse its decision, he individually, and he took it for granted, all the other members of the government, would agree that the original arrangement should at once be reverted to.

The *Criminal Tables for the Year* 1849 have been laid before both Houses of Parliament. The prefatory explanation and calculations, by Mr. Redgrave, of the Home Office, the compiler of the tables, contain much curious and important matter. Among a number of other statements we find the following:—Of the persons committed for trial in the last year there were—Acquitted and discharged, 6786; acquitted on the ground of insanity, 18; found insane, 11; convicted, 21,001; total committed, 27,816. Of the persons convicted last year 1 in 318 was sentenced to death; and 1 in 8 to transportation. But the leniency of the administration of the law is forcibly exhibited, when it is shown that embracing all the serious offences for which persons were convicted, the sentence of three-fourths were for periods of six months and under; of one-half for three months and under; and that the sentences of above one-third were for periods of two months and under. There has been no execution since 1841, except for murder; of 19 persons convicted last year of this offence, 15 were executed, the crimes of several being marked by circumstances of peculiar atrocity. Five of these persons were females; one for the murder and robbery of her mistress, one for the murder of her husband by poison, who was also charged with and confessed the murder of her two adult sons, and the attempted murder of a third; one for the murder of her infant by poison, suspected to have been the eighth or ninth similar offence; another for the murder of her husband by poison; and the fifth was (with her husband, who was also executed) convicted of a deeply-laid plan of murder and robbery. Of the males, one was convicted of murder who was also charged with a second murder, and the attempted murder of two other persons, in furtherance of extensive forgeries and fraud; one was convicted of the murder of four persons, and robbery; one of the murder of his mother; one of the murder of his child; one of the murder of a young girl, supposed from motives of revenge; another of the murder of a female, the motive not being made apparent; and three of separate cases of murder in connection with burglary and theft. In the commitments last year for murder, the number of females equalled the number of males; and it appears that the recent increase in the commitments for murder is attributable solely to female crime.

A great *Tenant-right Meeting* of the county of Louth took place at Dundalk on the 29th of June. The proceedings were unanimous, and the important object of cementing the union of the North and South, for promoting the interests of the tenant farmers, was materially forwarded.

There was a meeting at Reading on the 6th, got up by Mr. Ferrand, to gain recruits for his "*Wool League*," a combination to put down the cotton manufacture by abstaining from the use of that article. About 300 persons were present. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Ferrand in his usual strain, and also by the Marquis of Downshire, the character of whose speech may be gathered from the following specimen:—"I did not come here this day to do things by halves; no, I came here to speak out, and to call things by their proper names. And I now declare that I wish this agitation to be considered as a war *à l'outrance* on the part of the farmers against the Manchester cotton manufacturers. Now mark my words—I will stand by them—and if there be a penalty attached to them, on my head let it fall. I recommend you and all Englishmen to abstain from dealing in a single ounce of their blood-stained cotton goods." These sentiments, and the noble marquis's recommendation that his hearers should "give their custom only to those whom they knew to be their friends, and who, they were sure would vote the right way," were received with vociferous cheers.

The question of *Smithfield Market* is under discussion in the Court of Common Council. The Secretary of State having transmitted to that body the report of the royal commission, which recommended the discontinuance of that market and the establishment of a new cattle market in a place without the City; and having desire to know whether the corporation were willing to construct the new market and undertake its supervision; this communication was referred to the market improvement committee. At a special court on the 11th, the report of this committee was brought up. It objects, at great length, to the recommendation of Her Majesty's commissioners, and concludes as follows:—"Under all these circumstances, therefore, and upon every consideration, as well for the benefit of the public at large, as of the citizens of London in particular, your committee cannot but express their firm and unaltered opinion, that the suggestion for the removal of Smithfield market is, without any adequate reason, founded upon public considerations for the present, or any certainty as to its effect for the future." A debate ensued, which after adjournment, was terminated on the 23rd, when the report was agreed to.

Conciliation Hall has been finally closed. On the 15th the weekly rent was only 4*l*. 10*s*.; on which Mr. John O'Connell moved that the association should adjourn *sine die*, as they were in debt, and had lost all control over the hall. The motion was carried in solemn silence, and the meeting (a very small one) broke up.

The annual dinner of the *Society for the Reform of Colonial Government* took place at Greenwich on the 17th. Lord Monteagle presided; and the principal speakers were Sir W. Molesworth, the Bishop of Oxford, Mr. Hume, Mr. Adderley, and Mr. Lowe, of New South Wales.

The *Royal Agricultural Society* held its annual meeting this year at Exeter. The principal day was Thursday the 18th, when there was a great show of cattle and other farm stock and machinery, followed by a dinner, at which the chair was occupied by the Marquis of Downshire, the President of the Society. Among the numerous company were the French and American ambassadors, who both addressed the meeting, expressing their admiration of the state of agriculture in England.

The *National Reform Association* held a great meeting on the 17th at Wymondham, in Norfolk. It was estimated that 5000 persons were present, comprising many belonging to the agricultural classes. The Sheriff of Norfolk presided. The principal speakers were Sir Joshua Walmesley, Mr. G. Thompson, Mr. A. Mackay, and Mr. T. M'Enteer, who formed the metropolitan deputation, and two local members, Sir Thomas Beever, and Mr. Tillett, of Norwich.

A meeting—described as an aggregate meeting of the clergy of the Church of England and the lay members of her communion—was held in St. Martin's Hall, Long-Acre, on the 23rd. Its object was to protest against the decisions of the several courts of law in the *Gorham Case;* to address the Archbishop of Canterbury, and to take other steps to prevent the order of the Court of Arches to induct Mr. Gorham to the vicarage of Brampford Speke from being carried into effect. It is estimated that about 2000 persons were present. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. G. Hubbard; and the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Archdeacon Wilberforce, Archdeacon Thorpe, Archdeacon Bartholomew, Archdeacon Manning, Viscount Feilding, Earl Nelson, Lord John Manners, and the Rev. Dr. Pusey, were among the persons on the platform. The meeting was addressed at great length by the chairman, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Archdeacon Wilberforce, and others; and resolutions in accordance with the objects of the meeting were unani-

mously adopted.—Owing to the overflow of St. Martin's Hall, a supplementary meeting was held in Freemasons' Hall, over which Viscount Feilding presided. Dr. Pusey addressed the meeting, and the same resolutions as those proposed in St. Martin's Hall were adopted.

The late Henry Robertson Hartley, Esq., of Southampton, has *Left the Bulk of his Fortune*, amounting to 80,000*l.*, to the corporation of that town, to be applied in such manner as may promote the study of natural history, astronomy, antiquities, and classical and oriental literature, by forming the requisite institutions for those purposes. It is to be regretted that, from the inaccurate preparation of the will, a suit in Chancery will be necessary to give it effect.

The building committee for the *Exhibition of* 1851, has accepted the tender of Mr. Paxton to erect in Hyde Park a building chiefly of iron and glass. It is to be of wood-work to the height of eighteen feet, and arrangements have been made to provide complete ventilation and secure a moderate temperature. The building is to be made in Birmingham and the neighbourhood. Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., of the London Works, at Smethwick, have the contract for the iron framework; Messrs. Clance, of Spon Lane, will supply the enormous quantity of glass required; and the tubes are also entrusted to a firm in the district. These three materials constitute, in fact, the entire building.

A meeting of *Electors of the City of London* was held on the 25th, summoned by Baron Rothschild, to consider what course ought to be adopted by him in consequence of the Parliamentary Oaths bill being laid aside for this session. After considerable discussion, in which Baron Rothschild himself, Mr. J. A. Smith, Mr. P. Taylor, Lord D. Stuart, Mr. Anstey, Mr. Wire, and others took part, it was unanimously resolved "That Baron Rothschild proceed to-morrow to the House of Commons to claim his seat."

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

MR. Wayse, a draper of Oxford Street, was summoned before the Marlborough police court on the 29th of June, for *Assaulting a Customer*. Mrs. Denning and a female friend, seeing a ticketed mantle in his shop-window, went in to buy it, reading the price to be one guinea. The mantle was produced, and a guinea and a half asked for it; on the lady's demurring, a ticket was shown, with one guinea in large print, and a very small ½ subjoined, which, they believed, had just been written. High words ensued, and the tradesman pushed the customer out of the shop. A shopman deposed that he had put the ticket—one guinea and a half—on the mantle; and the master declared that he had used no unnecessary violence, but was provoked by the accusation of cheating. The magistrate commented on the impropriety of exhibiting tickets so written as to mislead the public, and fined the draper twenty shillings.

A respectably dressed young man, who refused to give his name, was charged at Guildhall, on the 3rd, with uttering seditious language in a public-house. Several papers were found upon him. One consisted of hints to those who thought of suicide, urging that they might as well be hanged—or take the chance of it with the alternative of a comfortable provision for life—as drown themselves; and that they might manage this by killing a policeman, a duchess, or a countess, and then pleading insanity. Another paper said the writer would like to kill five hundred of the aristocracy, and a third contained a plan of setting fire to ladies' dresses in Kensington Gardens, at a time "when the aristocracy are congregated to hear the band play." Before the alderman the prisoner admitted that these writings were by him, and said that merely to explain how an unlawful act might be committed, was no offence. He was remanded that inquiries might be made. He was brought up again on the 10th, when Mr. Maule, the solicitor of the Home Office, was in attendance, who requested the alderman to deal summarily with the case by binding the prisoner over to keep the peace. He seemed much disappointed that he was not to have a regular trial, and made a nonsensical speech about his plan for thinning the numbers of the aristocracy. The alderman cut short his oratory;—"You are one of three things, insane, mischievous, or seeking notoriety; I believe you are the two latter." He was ordered to find bail and removed in custody.

The Court of Queen's Bench gave judgment, on the 6th, in *the Case of Barber*. This gentleman, it will be remembered, was tried in 1844 on several charges of fraud and forgery, in conjunction with a person of the name of Fletcher, and sentenced to transportation for life. In 1848, after enduring great hardships in Norfolk Island, he received a free pardon, in consequence of enquiries made into his case, and returned to England. He applied to the Court of Queen's Bench to be allowed anew to take out his certificate to practise as an attorney; but this being opposed by the Law Society, a rule *nisi* was granted, and the matter was fully argued before the court. In giving judgment, Mr. Justice Patteson, after taking a review of the various transactions in which Barber had been implicated along with Fletcher, said in conclusion, that looking at all the circumstances of all these cases, and endeavouring to make all reasonable allowances for the difficulties in which Mr. Barber was placed in explaining his conduct, the court regretted to say that it could not but see such proofs of complicity with Fletcher as rendered it an imperative duty to decline complying with the application for the renewal of his certificate to practise as an attorney of this court. The rule was therefore discharged.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, on the 6th, an action of *Slander* was tried, at the instance of Mr. Barry, the architect, against Dr. Reid, the ventilator of the new Houses of Parliament. It appeared that in 1845 there were meetings between the plaintiff and defendant, at one of which the defendant admitted that his principle of ventilation would not act in accordance with the plaintiff's arrangement that the Houses of Parliament should be fire-proof. A Mr. Meesom, who was present at the meeting on the part of Mr. Barry, reported, by the directions of the plaintiff, Mr. Reid's admission to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests. At a subsequent meeting, at which Meesom was present, Dr. Reid refused to proceed, saying, "I'll transact no business in a meeting in which Mr. Meesom is, because he and Mr. Barry sent in a forged document to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests." These were the slanderous words complained of. The Chief Justice said that the plaintiff had no case, because the communication was privileged, and suggested that the matter should be settled, a suggestion which was adopted.

An Irishman named Fahy attempted to *Rob the House* of Mr. Swetenham, near Congleton, on the afternoon of Sunday the 7th, while the family was at church, but was prevented by the intrepidity of Ann Tranter, the maid servant. The man pretended to be deaf and dumb, and begged for alms; the servant gave him some bread; then he attempted to push past her into the house; on the girl resisting his entrance, he assailed her with a stick; she took it from him; then he beat her with his fists; the girl grappled with him, and being tall and stout, managed to throw him on the ground, and kept him there for some time. When the man succeeded in overpowering her, and rose, she ran to a bell and pulled it to give an alarm. Again she baffled Fahy's attempts to enter the house, pushed him into the stable-yard, and locked him out. The bell had attracted a gamekeeper's notice, and he hurried to the house; where he found the courageous girl in a fainting state. The keeper seized Fahy on the road a short distance from the place, and had him committed on a charge of assault with intent to rob. The Congleton magistrates highly commended Ann Tranter for her conduct.

The Court of Exchequer gave judgment in the *Gorham Case* on the 8th. This is the third decision of precisely the same question in three different courts of law. The Bishop of Exeter first applied to the Court of Queen's Bench for a rule to prohibit the Court of Arches from giving effect to the decision of the privy council in favour of Mr. Gorham. On its being refused, the bishop made a similar application to the Court of Common Pleas, by whom also it was refused, and he then brought the matter in the same form before the Court of Exchequer.

After the question had been argued at great length, for several days successively, the Court of Exchequer found, as the two other courts had done, that the appeal from the Court of Arches was to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and refused the bishop's application, with costs.

At the Central Criminal Court on the 9th, two men named Bayley and Lawler, were convicted of *Conspiring to Cheat* Thomas Bland, a butcher, of 58*l*. The prisoners are what is called "skittle-sharpers." They got into conversation with their dupe at a public-house, and induced him to go to a skittle-ground. Lawler and Bayley began to play for money; Bayley seemed quite drunk and ignorant of the game. He lost every game, and eventually Bland was tempted to bet against him. Bayley then began to improve amazingly, and won from the butcher; but the spirit of gambling was roused within him. He lost all his money, and when he had no more, went to a friend and borrowed 45*l*., which he lost also. He then began to find that he had been cheated, and gave his fellow-gamblers into custody. They were sentenced to a year's imprisonment.

The Court of Exchequer, after a trial of several days, decided on the 9th an action on a *Policy of Insurance* effected with the Albion Company on the life of a Captain Clayton. The claim for the sum insured was resisted on the ground that Captain Clayton was of drunken and intemperate habits, while he had been represented when the policy was obtained as being of sober and temperate habits. The case turned entirely upon the question, what constituted intemperate habits. An enormous quantity of evidence on this point, of the most contradictory kind, was taken; the most opposite accounts of Captain Clayton's habits being given by different witnesses. The result was a verdict against the assurance company for 539*l*., the amount of the sum in the policy, with interest. In charging the jury, the Lord Chief Baron said that it would have been far better for the Albion Company to have lost the sum at stake than to have contested the point in a court of justice. On this trial the Times made the important remark, that "the only mode in which absolute security can be obtained by the public must lie in the general adoption by assurance offices of the plan of protecting themselves in every case by due inquiries before the granting of the policy, and of afterwards assuming the full responsibility for the completeness of such inquiries by holding themselves precluded from raising any future question."

At the Westminster Police Court on the 9th, Eliza Medland, a woman with half a dozen aliases, was charged with endeavouring to *Obtain Money by False Pretences, from Prince Albert*. She had written to the Prince as "M. A. Purkess," setting forth that she had a child suffering from a disease of the spine, for which sea-bathing was ordered, and soliciting 5*l*., on the score of having been wet nurse to the Princess Alice Maude. The name of the wet nurse was Perkins, not Purkess, and Col. Phipps, the Prince's Secretary, detected the applicant as an impostor. She was remanded, there being other charges against her, and brought up again on the 13th, when it was proved that she had endeavoured to extract money from the Marchioness of Londonderry, by representing herself as Mrs. Macbride, a poor woman with a husband out of work, a dead child, and no means to bury it. She tried to get off by promising amendment for the future, but the magistrate sent her to the House of Correction for three months, remarking, "if you have formed any resolution of amendment, you can carry it into effect when you come out."

Henry Page and Emma Clarke, whose case was mentioned in last month's *Narrative*, were tried on the 10th at the Central Criminal Court, for *Bigamy*. The evidence, however, failed to substantiate the charge, and they were both acquitted.

At Devizes Assizes on the 10th, Abraham Hicks was tried for *Cutting and Wounding* Elizabeth Henley with intent to murder or do her grievous bodily harm. The woman, who is married and has a family, was walking homewards when she came up with Hicks, a married man, and offered him a pint of beer to give her a lift in his cart. He took her in, and began to take improper liberties with her; she resisted, and his brutal passions being aroused, he abused her frightfully, kicking and beating her almost to death, and then throwing her out of the cart. She was found lying insensible on the road, and had suffered injuries from which she can never recover. The man was convicted, and sentenced to transportation for life.

Robert Pate, late lieutenant in the 10th hussars, was tried in the Central Criminal Court on the 11th, *for Striking the Queen on the Face with a Cane*. The assault (the circumstances of which were adverted to in our last number) was fully proved, and the prisoner was defended only on the plea of insanity. This was sought to be established by a variety of evidence. Several of his brother officers proved that his character became changed in 1844, after the loss of three favourite horses, which were destroyed in consequence of having been bitten by a mad dog. He had previously been an exemplary officer; but he then became subject to strange delusions, forsook the mess, neglected his person and his duty, and at length left the regiment without leave and went home to his father, by whom he was sent back. He was allowed to resume duty without punishment in consideration of the weakness of his mind, but ultimately a communication was made to his father advising his retirement from the regiment, and he sold his commission. His habits were proved to be eccentric in the extreme. He rose at seven and bathed in water containing whiskey and camphor, shouting and singing all the while; he never received company, and always had his blinds down. A cab-driver stated that he attended him every day, in all kinds of weather, for eighteen months, and drove him exactly the same drive, over Putney Heath and Barnes Common; he always alighted at a particular spot near a pond, and after looking into the pond for some minutes, returned to the cab. In the cab he sat flourishing his stick as if he were repelling an attack, and people used to ask the cabman if the gentleman was right in his mind. He regularly paid a fare of nine shillings, every shilling turned with the face up and looking one way; for the turnpikes he always had a sixpence and a large penny-piece, which his servant had regularly to provide. Mr. James Starten, surgeon, of Savill Row, had formerly noticed the prisoner in Kensington Gardens, and cautioned his wife not to attract his attention, as he was obviously a "poor lunatic"—"dangerous." Afterwards he casually became acquainted with the prisoner, and communicated with his father on the state of his mind. Mr. Pate, the prisoner's father, stated many facts proving that he had always felt that his son must go into an asylum; but under Dr. Conolly's advice, he had postponed taking measures, because in London his son had not been so bad as when first he left Ireland. The O'Gorman Mahon, M.P., avowed his belief that the prisoner would be the last man in the world to do a dishonourable or disloyal act. Inspector Squire stated, that the police had long observed the prisoner's eccentric gait and wild gestures in the street; he was known to them by the name of "Cut-and-thrust," from his mode of flourishing his cane as he rushed along. The Reverend Charles Driscoll saw him on the afternoon of the assault on the queen; he stood near Cambridge House for a short time, and then started off in a more excited manner than usual to him, so as to induce Mr. Driscoll to notice him more attentively. Dr. Conolly and Dr. Munro gave their opinions distinctly, that the prisoner was *now insane;* not under any specific delusion, and knowing right from wrong *in conversation*, but liable to act under sudden and uncontrollable impulses, which he might even know to be wrong. Dr. Munro concluded his evidence by saying that from all he had heard to-day, and from his own personal examination, he was satisfied that the prisoner was of unsound mind. The learned doctor was sharply taken up by the judge, Baron Alderson. "If you can give us," he said, "the results of your scientific knowledge on the point, we shall be glad to hear you; but I will not permit any medical witness to usurp the functions of the judge and the jury." Dr. Monro apologised, and said he considered that he had only answered the question put to him. Baron Alderson, in summing up, corrected a grievous delusion in the minds of medical men, that a man is unpunishable because he is insane. The only insanity

which exculpates is the special insanity which prompts to the act alleged. A man with a delusion that another will kill him, may be acquitted, if, under that delusion he kills in supposed self-defence; but a man with a delusion that he has a glass head has no similar excuse for such an act. Doubtless, abundance of eccentricity had been proved; but was eccentricity to excuse a man for striking the queen? The impulse was no excuse if the prisoner knew right from wrong: if a man knows that what he does is wrong, and still has an irresistible impulse to do it, the law will have an irresistible impulse to punish for the act. There must be proof of a formed disease of the mind—a disease existing before the act was committed, and one which makes the person incapable of knowing that the act he is about to do is wrong. Unless the jury could say that the prisoner knew not right from wrong, they could not acquit him on the ground of insanity. The jury, after consulting for four hours, returned a verdict of *Guilty*, and the judge sentenced the prisoner to transportation for seven years. He heard the sentence without apparent emotion, and, bowing to the court, turned round and left the dock without uttering a word.

The *Anniversary of the 12th of July* has passed over in Ireland more quietly than usual. There was, however, an unfortunate collision on that day in Belfast between the police and the people. A small party of police having prevented an Orange procession from forming, and arrested a lad who was beating a drum, were followed to their barracks by a crowd who pelted them all the way with stones. The barracks were then assaulted, the windows smashed, and the shutters on the ground-floor nearly forced. The police fired in self-defence, and several of the rioters were wounded: one was carried off by his comrades, and another was conveyed to the hospital, where it was found necessary to amputate his leg.

Walter Watts, who had been convicted at the Central Criminal Court, of *Stealing a Cheque* belonging to the Globe Insurance Company, was brought up on the 12th to receive judgment, and was sentenced to be transported for ten years.

On the following night he *Committed Suicide* in Newgate. Being in bad health, he had been placed in the ward infirmary, along with several other prisoners; about three in the morning the prisoner who slept next him observed that he had left his bed, and suspecting the truth, went to the water-closet, where he found that the unfortunate man had hanged himself to the bar of the window by a piece of rope and his cravat. The surgeon of the prison was called, but it was found that he had been dead for some time.

Daniel Donovan, a smith, was tried on the 12th at the Central Criminal Court, for *Throwing his Wife out of a Window*, with intent to murder her. They were both intoxicated, and having quarrelled, the husband, after beating the woman savagely, opened the window and threw her into the yard. From the injuries she received her life was long in danger. The charge was proved by the evidence of the woman and the prisoner's two children, who were present. Judgment of death was recorded, the judge saying that he would recommend the prisoner's life to be spared, but no more. He was re-conveyed to gaol and placed in the cell allotted to prisoners after trial; about three o'clock it was discovered that he had *Hanged Himself*, and was quite dead.

The *Spirit of Litigation* was strongly exhibited in two trials on the Oxford circuit. At Abingdon, on the 12th, an action of ejectment was tried, in which the parties were old men of 75 and 89, and the subject matter was a piece of land six yards long and four yards wide. An immense body of evidence—ancient documents, aged witnesses, &c.—was brought forward on both sides, and a verdict was given for the plaintiff. The expense of the trial, it was stated, was, at least, a hundred times the value of the piece of land. The other case was between two members of the same family, who had gone to law in consequence of cutting down a few trees on a farm. The plaintiff himself had only valued the trees at 14*l*, and after long and intricate proceedings in the Court of Chancery, that court had sent the question of damages to be tried by a jury. In summing up the case to the jury, the judge desired them to assess the damages to which they thought the plaintiff entitled, if the court above should say that the verdict ought to be for him. The jury said they were not aware that he had suffered any damage. The damages were at length contingently assessed at *one farthing*, and the case returns to the Court of Chancery to proceed accordingly.

A respectable-looking young man named Garret was charged at the Hammersmith Police Court on the 13th by Miss Parkinson, a lady residing at Notting hill, with *being in her House for an unlawful Purpose*. While absent from home she had heard from a friend that a young man was in the habit of coming to her house and staying till a late hour at night. On this she came home unexpectedly that morning, bringing a policeman with her, and finding a man in the house with the servants she at once gave him into custody. She had not, however, missed anything. The prisoner, in a strong north-country dialect, told his story. He was a farmer's son, just come from Newcastle to prove his father's will. He had fallen in with Elizabeth, who was cook to Miss Parkinson, and "made known his mind to her;" but her brother had objected to the match, until he was satisfied of his respectability, and he had gone to the house to arrange meetings between his solicitor and the brother of Elizabeth for that purpose. On this occasion he had gone there to take the ring and name the day, when Elizabeth ran in out of breath, and said, "Oh, here's Missus come with a policeman to take you away," and he said, "Never mind lass; I have neither stolen anything nor eaten anything, so let them take me." He then explained the matter as well as he could to the lady, but she would give him into custody. Miss Parkinson said she considered the cook had most grossly misconducted herself in admitting persons to her house against her orders, and she should dismiss her at once. Defendant: Oh, please ma'am, let me stop here until you see if you have lost anything, but don't throw suspicion on the character of Elizabeth till you find you have. The magistrate said, that Miss Parkinson had been too hasty, though the servant was wrong in receiving visitors against her orders. He therefore dismissed the prisoner, who left the court in the direction of Notting-hill, no doubt to receive his Elizabeth, should she be turned out of the house by her mistress.

A coroner's inquest was held on the 13th, on the body of a poor bonnet-maker, named Susan Ansell, who lived in the New Kent Road, and who, it appeared from the evidence, *Died of Starvation* in consequence of insufficiency of means to procure food. She had been advised to apply to Newington Workhouse for relief, but declared that "she would rather die in a ditch."

At the Greenwich Police Office, on the 16th, John Edward Spooner was charged with *Attempting to Drown* Captain Alexander Sheriff, the Superintendent of the East Country Dock. Spooner had been employed as a labourer at the dock; Mr. Sheriff, for particular reasons directed that he should be so no longer; on the day of his dismissal, Spooner accosted Mr. Sheriff, who refused to hold any converse with him; whereupon the prisoner pushed Mr. Sheriff into the water of the dock. The fall to the surface was eight feet, the depth of water eighteen; any one not a swimmer would probably have perished under such circumstances; but Mr. Sheriff, though seventy-five years old, managed to keep afloat till he was rescued. The prisoner was committed for trial.

At the Winchester Assizes, on the 16th, Sophia Winter was tried for *Bigamy*. It appeared by the evidence that the prisoner, who is an interesting looking young woman, was married in 1837 to William Winter, a respectable tradesman at Portsea. She lived very happily with her husband for some years, and had several children by him; but he received an appointment which took him abroad. There he remained some years, when she became acquainted with Alfred Dodswell, the son of a lieutenant in the navy, residing at Portsmouth. He became much attached to her, and eventually persuaded her to marry him, telling her that the first marriage was not a legal one, as she was a minor when it was contracted, and under that idea she consented to marry him. This was in 1848. They lived together up to May last, when William Winter, the first husband

returned. She was then made to understand that her first marriage was a perfectly legal one, on which she refused to live any longer with Dodswell, but returned to her first husband, and Dodswell instituted the present prosecution. It was contended that she had married the second husband without any felonious intent, under the belief that the first marriage was illegal. The judge said that it was to be regretted that this prosecution had been brought, but still it was his opinion that the legal offence of bigamy had been made out. The jury, however, acquitted the prisoner, and the judge refused to allow the costs of the prosecution.

At Chelmsford Assizes, on the 18th, John Ager was tried for the *Murder* of Charles Piper. Whilst walking home at night, Piper put his arm round a girl who was Ager's sweetheart; when Ager exclaimed against this, the other young man answered offensively; then Ager stabbed him with a knife. The case was clear; and the prisoner's counsel could only plead for a verdict for the lesser offence of manslaughter. The jury acceded to this view; and the prisoner was sentenced to be transported for life.

A *Child of Eight years old*, named Willis, was brought before the sitting magistrate at the Mansion House, on the 19th, charged with having attempted to stab a boy of his own age with a knife, and with having wounded another boy so seriously in the eye that he was likely to lose it. It appeared that the prisoner had been brought up in utter ignorance of moral responsibility, and that his father, on hearing of his apprehension, had said that he had a good right to use a knife in his own defence. The magistrate said he could not commit a child of such tender years to Newgate, but would require security for his good behaviour for a year. He was then locked up in the cage, uttering screams and curses.

In the Arches Court, on the 20th, in the *Gorham Case*, the Bishop of Exeter presented his answer of obedience to the monition of the court, tendering a protest along with it. The court received the answer, but rejected the protest. Mr. Gorham's immediate induction follows as a matter of course.

At the Lewes Assizes, on the 23rd, Mary Hardwick, a miserable-looking creature, was indicted for attempting to *Murder her Child*. On the Saturday preceding she was seen standing with a child in her arms near the custom-house at Brighton, when she suddenly ran down to the sea, threw the child into the water, and then jumped in herself. The woman and child were dragged out in a state of insensibility, but both recovered. A man was on the spot, who appeared to be the woman's husband, who, after she was recovered, abused her violently, and expressed a wish that she had drowned herself. The poor woman, during the trial, seemed hardly aware of what she had done. She was convicted, but recommended to mercy, and judgment was deferred.

Numerous *Evictions from Land* still take place in Ireland. A Galway paper says:—"Notices have been served upon the relieving officers by the managers of the Martin estate, of their intention to evict a vast number of unfortunate creatures now residing on this property. The number of houses from which the inmates are to be cast out is 276; but on account of the previous evictions in the same quarter, several families reside in many instances under the same roof, so that we conceive it is a moderate calculation to estimate the number of individuals about to be subjected to all the tortures of extermination, at 1,500."

The Attorney-General has refused to sanction an application for an *Injunction* against holding the great Industrial Exhibition of 1851 in Hyde Park;—"I have in this matter a duty of a judicial nature to perform. The object of the information is to call in question the exercise of the discretion of the Woods and Forests in the management of a part of the property of the Crown. The information states that what the Commissioners of Woods and Forests are about to do is illegal, and injurious to the public. The information states no facts, which, in my opinion, establish either of these propositions. But even if there were a question as to the illegality, the Attorney-General is bound to judge whether it is for the interest of the public to litigate the question. Cases may be conceived, and indeed not unfrequently arise, in which the letter of the law has been violated, and in which the court has, nevertheless, required the Attorney-General to consider whether he would allow an information to proceed complaining of such violation, even where the Attorney-General had already in his discretion allowed the information to be filed, and where, if the information had proceeded, the court could have done no other than enforce the strict right. The discretion of the Attorney-General is interposed to prevent this mischief; and his exercise of that discretion is purely an exercise of a judicial function, and as such I have exercised it to the best of my ability. In the present case the sense of what is for the interest of the public, with relation to what the Commissioners of Woods and Forests propose to do, has been unequivocally expressed by a vote of the House of Commons. It would, in my opinion, be an improper measure on the part of the Attorney-General, if, in the exercise of his discretion, and acting on behalf of the public, he were to sanction a proceeding directly at variance with that vote. If any private right were affected by my decision it would be a different matter; but I have the satisfaction of knowing that no private right of any individual or individuals can be withdrawn from the consideration of any court, or in any manner affected by my refusal to sanction this information."

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

INTELLIGENCE has been received from Madras of the *Loss of an Indiaman*, the Sulimary, from Bombay, bound to England. She was riding at anchor off the coast, and encountered, on the 24th of May, a dreadful gale of wind, in the height of which she parted from her anchors, and was driven on shore, when she speedily became a complete wreck. An attempt was made to save the passengers, of whom there were several, by means of the boats. They were, however, quickly destroyed by the fury of the sea, and upwards of forty, including the captain, his wife, and thirty-three seamen, perished. Another Indiaman, named the Guna, was driven ashore on the same coast, about the same time, and became a wreck. The crew of this vessel were more fortunate; they all escaped. The loss of both vessels is said to exceed 50,000*l*.

The French republican war-brig L'Aigle *Was Lost* between Fort de France and Trinidad on the 10th of June. She was suddenly overtaken in a heavy squall, and almost instantly capsized and went down. Her officers and crew, sixty in number, perished excepting only two.

On Saturday night, the 29th of June, a skiff containing six gentlemen, proceeding up the river, was run down by a steamer, near Westminster bridge, and two of them—Mr. W. Hawtrey and Mr. Needham—were *Drowned*. One swam ashore, and the others were saved by a boat that was passing.

On Saturday evening, the 29th of June, Mr. Green, the aeronaut, ascended with a friend from Vauxhall Gardens, and the balloon *fell into the Thames*, near the Nore. Their lives were saved by the people in a revenue cutter that was passing, but Mr. Green was hurt on the head and face. The balloon was secured with difficulty, the gas being liberated by volleys of musketry from the cutter.

A lady named Martin lost her life, on the 4th, by *Walking on the York and Scarborough Railway*. A train was approaching, and the engine-driver gave the alarm by his whistle. Seeing her danger she attempted to escape by running back; but she was struck down in a moment, and the whole train, of seventeen carriages, passed over her body, which was literally torn in pieces. This should be a lesson against an imprudence often committed.

A case of *Death through the use of Chloroform* at Guy's Hospital, was investigated by a Coroner's Inquest on the 5th. The patient was Alexander Scott, a police-

man, aged thirty-four, and the operation was the removal of a part of his hand, which had been bitten by a man about a year before. The bone and nerves were diseased, producing great pain in the arm and side, otherwise the man was strong and healthy. He desired that chloroform should be administered, though Mr. Cock, the operator, endeavoured to dissuade him. The operation did not last above a minute and a half, but by the time it was finished, it was found that the patient had expired. Mr. Cock said that he always objected to the use of chloroform, for it never could be given without some degree of danger. In this instance a very small quantity had been used, not a tenth part of what had been administered in other cases. He could not account for the deceased dying, and was certain there was no disease about him. So strong and powerful an agent was chloroform, that it could not be administered without some amount of risk and danger, and the penalty the public must pay for the alleviation from pain would be a death occasionally. A similar death occurred about twelve months since at St. Thomas's Hospital, and many other deaths might be recorded. It might be used one or two thousand times or more, successfully, and was of great assistance to the operator. The public ought to know the danger attending its administration.

On the evening of the 8th, Lieutenant Gale ascended in a *Balloon from Shoreham*, was carried across the channel, and landed on the beach near Dieppe. He was at first arrested by a gendarme as a suspicious person, but, on explanation, he was kindly treated and his balloon secured for him.

A *Frightful Tragedy* occurred at Wilmot, Annapolis County, in the United States, on the 9th ult., when a Mrs. Miller, of Handley, after her husband had gone to church, walked out with her four youngest children, and having tied them to her dress, plunged with them from a cliff, and all were drowned. Her mind has been slightly deranged, but on that day she appeared unusually well. She left nine other children.

On the 15th, while the two daughters of Mrs. Stoner, of Ringrone House, and nieces of Lord Camoys, were walking among the rocks of the seashore at Salcombe, they were overtaken by the flowing tide, when one of them was *Drowned*. Her sister held on by the rocks and was saved by the coast guard, whose services are described as being highly commendable.

There have been violent *Thunder Storms* in various parts of the country. At Bristol, on the 15th, many buildings in the town and ships in the harbour were struck by lightning, and several persons were injured, but there was no loss of life. On the following day Manchester and its neighbourhood were visited by a storm. At Bury, a boy was riding on a horse with a number of milk-cans; the lightning struck them, and both boy and horse were killed. Two men were ascending the shaft of a mine, when the lightning damaged the rope; it broke, and the miners were precipitated to the bottom, very seriously hurt.

A *Dreadful Accident* happened on Sunday the 21st on the South Western Railway. An immense number of persons left the Waterloo station in the morning, in the excursion trains to Southampton. One of the trains left a quarter of an hour before another, and was overtaken by the latter some distance down the line. As there appeared scarcely sufficient power in the engine of the first train to keep it ahead of the second, the latter assisted in propelling the former along. When near Basingstoke the first train shot ahead a little of the second, but was again overtaken by the latter, and although the concussion of their coming in contact was very slight, it was sufficient to throw a man out who was improperly sitting on the outer rail of an open third class carriage, without any roof, which was the fourth from the last carriage of the first train. The man fell across the rail, and the whole of the four last carriages of the first train went over his head and arm. His head was cut to pieces, and his brains scattered over the line. He was of course killed by the first wheel which went over him. He moaned after he fell out of the carriage. He was respectably dressed, and it was stated that he resided somewhere in the neighbourhood of Ludgate-hill. It is said that no blame was attributable to the driver of the engine of the second train, because the concussion of coming in contact with the first train would not have done any damage, if the unfortunate man who met with the fatal accident had not been sitting where he had no business to sit.

On the morning of the 21st, the butler of H. Cooper, Esq., of Manor-house, Brixton, who had been out shooting the birds which destroyed the wall-fruit, left his loaded fowling-piece on the hall table whilst answering his master's bell. Mr. Henry Cooper, aged 16, entered the hall, and taking up the weapon presented it at his sister who was along with him. Mrs. Evans, the housekeeper, who had followed them, was in the act of remonstrating with him on the foolishness of his conduct, when the piece exploded, and both females fell with a loud shriek. Miss Cooper received the chief contents of the charge (No. 6 shot) in her neck and face, and, should she recover, will be disfigured for life. The housekeeper is so dangerousously injured, that no hopes are entertained of her recovery. The occurrence was purely accidental.

A calamitous *Steamboat Explosion* took place at Bristol on the 22nd. The Red Rover steamer left the Hotwells about eight in the evening, and was about to proceed to Bristol, full of passengers, when she snddenly blew up with a noise which shook the neighbourhood, and was heard at the distance of miles. The engines and machinery were torn to pieces; her funnel, the plates of her boiler, and the other portions of her machinery being hurled into the air. The bodies of some of the passengers were thrown by the shock high above the houses; others were cast into the water; and almost every passenger was more or less injured. The vessel almost immediately sank, going down by the head, her stern fortunately remaining long enough above the water to enable some of the passengers to be taken out of the after-cabin windows. Such was the force of the explosion, that some of the plates of the boiler of the steamer were thrown with considerable violence on to the roofs of the houses in Avon Cresecent and Rawlings's Yard, more than one hundred yards from the spot where the explosion took place; and one piece, upwards of one and a half hundred weight, was thrown into Messrs. Hennett's timber-yard, at fully as great a distance. A little girl, named Jefferies, was hurled by the explosion with such violence as to be thrown completely across the lock to the road on the opposite side, where her brains were dashed out against the wall. The most prompt assistance was given, and a number of persons, alive and dead, were picked up. Six dead bodies were found, and many, carried to the hospital, were so dreadfully injured, that their recovery could hardly be expected. On the following day an inquiry into the cause of the accident commenced before the coroner.

A *Frightful Accident* occurred on the 23rd in one of the coal-pits belonging to Mr. Sneden, situated at Commonade, in the immediate neighbourhood of Airdrie. The miners, to the number of twenty, deseended to their work as usual about six o'clock, when, it is said, the foreman accompanied them, and went forward to ascertain the state of the air in the pit. All of a sudden a terrific explosion occurred, which instantly killed nineteen out of the twenty, and shattered and destroyed all the implements and machinery in the pit. Only one man escaped. He was standing near the bottom of the pit when he heard the explosion, and suddenly threw himself down to allow the fiery storm to pass over. On rising he found the buckets which communicated with the surface shattered; but finding a piece of wood, he inserted it into one of the links of the chain, and giving the signal, was pulled up to the pit-head. The accounts of the cause of the accident given by this man are exceedingly imperfect, and it is not likely that the actual circumstance connected with this calamitous event will ever be known. *The Men had not Davy Lamps.* Fifteen of the bodies were recovered up to the last account, leaving still four in the pit. They are almost all dreadfully charred and disfigured from the effects of the explosion, which is one of the most severe that has occurred in the west of Scotland for many years. The deceased are mostly young men, but a few of them have left widows and children.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

A MEETING of the subscribers to the *Establishment for Gentlewomen during Illness* took place on the 10th, for the purpose of receiving a report of the progress of the institution. The Earl of Carlisle presided. From the report made by the managers and read to the meeting, it appeared that the liberal assistance afforded to the undertaking had been such as to induce the committee to take premises upon a small scale for a period of three and a half years, at No. 8, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square. The total amount of subscriptions already received exceeded 2000*l.*, the balance in the hands of the bankers amounting to 403*l.* The number of patients admitted since the opening of the institution had been thirteen, of whom six were at present inmates of the establishment. The services of a most efficient medical staff had been obtained. The success of the institution had been fully equal to the most sanguine expectations of its founders, and the committee stated that their further inquiries had confirmed them in the belief that the institution would be the means of affording relief hitherto unattainable in many most distressing cases, the helplessness and increasing number of which was attributable not to the fault or improvidence, but rather to the circumstances and sex of the sufferers.

The half-yearly general meeting of the Governors and Directors of the *Royal Humane Society* was held on the 10th. It was reported that the number of persons rescued from the ice, in the three parks, during the last skating season, amounted to 79. The number of bathers in the Serpentine during the present year has been estimated at 178,000. Five persons have been rescued from drowning during the same period, two of whom were taken to the receiving house of the society. Four attempted suicides have been prevented, and five rescued. Various new regulations have been made for the direction of bathers, and all unsafe parts have been forbidden, by which there can be no doubt many accidents have been prevented. Among the cases in which the Society's silver medal was awarded, that of Miss Harriet Atkinson, for the rescue of Elizabeth Hudson, who had fallen into a deep moat at Starston, in Norfolk, excited peculiar interest. This young lady on witnessing the accident, hastened to the spot, accompanied by a female friend and a man. The latter, however, was too terrified to render any assistance, when she immediately dashed into the water, swam to the sinking girl, and brought her safely to shore. It appears that Miss Atkinson, who was in a delicate state of health, had been residing a short time at Yarmouth, where she had learned to swim. An ingenious invention of Lieutenant Halkett, R.N., was brought before the meeting. It is a boat-cloak which may be worn, like a common cloak, on the shoulders. It can be inflated by means of a bellows in three minutes and a half, when it forms a kind of boat, capable of supporting six or eight persons, which it is almost impossible to overturn. The meeting determined that an experimental trial should be made of its efficacy.

A meeting of the governors of the *Seamen's Hospital* was held on the 12th, Mr. J. Wild, the vice-president, in the chair. The following extract from the report read to the meeting will show the magnitude and importance of this Institution. The total number of patients relieved since the first establishment of the hospital in 1818 was 62,100; of whom there were 36,014 Englishmen, 7474 Scotchmen, 5537 Irishmen, 226 Frenchmen, 820 Germans, 762 Russians, 1191 Prussians, 195 Dutchmen, 834 Danes, 1934 Swedes and Norwegians, 554 Italians, 469 Portuguese, 268 Spaniards, 1024 East Indians, 1055 West Indians, 804 British Americans, 1123 United States, 126 South Americans, 368 Africans, 16 Turks, 49 Greeks, 29 New Zealanders, 29 New South Wales, 179 South Sea Islanders, 37 Chinese, and 128 born at sea. Of these 3038 were in Her Majesty's service, 1797 in the Hon. East India Company's service, and 56,415 were from merchant vessels of different nations. The ordinary expenditure for the last three months amounted to 1588*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Royal Family left town for Osborne on the 18th accompanied by their visitor Prince Leopold of Saxe Coburg and Gotha.

Sir Thomas Wilde has been appointed Lord Chancellor, and raised to the peerage by the title of Baron Truro, of Bowes, in the county of Middlesex.

Sir John Jervis has been appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas; Sir John Romilly, Attorney-General; and Mr. Cockburn, Solicitor-General.

Mr. Cockburn, the new solicitor-general, was re-elected on the 17th for the borough of Southampton. On the same day Sir J. Romilly, the attorney-general, was re-elected for Devonport.

On the 19th, Sir Robert Peel, Bart., was returned for the borough of Tamworth, vacant by the death of his late father.

The members of the Reform Club, on the 20th, gave a splendid *Banquet to Lord Palmerston*, to express their confidence in his policy, and to commemorate his late triumph in the House of Commons. The number of guests was limited to two hundred, as many as the grand dining-room could hold. Mr. Bernal Osborne was in the chair. Speeches were made by Admiral Sir C. Napier, Gen. Sir de Lacy Evans, Lord Palmerston, Lord James Stuart, the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, and other distinguished persons present.

The East India Company has granted an allowance, during life, of 100*l.* per annum, to the gallant Major Herbert Edwardes, in consideration of his eminent services and the loss of his right hand.

The ceremony of the *First Communion of the Count of Paris* took place on the 20th at the French Catholic Chapel, in King Street, Portman Square. Dr. Wiseman, the Roman Catholic Bishop of London, officiated in person, assisted by the Abbé Mailly and the Abbé Guelle, and himself administered the communion to the young Prince. The Ex-King, the Queen Marie Amélie, the Duchess of Orleans, and all the members of the Royal family, were present, as well as a considerable number of devoted friends and adherents, many of whom had come from France especially to testify on this occasion their sympathy and respect for the illustrious exiles. Many English ladies were also present at the ceremony, among whom were the Duchess of Leinster, Lady Granville, Lady Shelburne, Lady Jersey, Lady Clementina Villiers, Hon. Miss Foley, Lady Harriette d'Orsay, Lady Tankerville, &c. On leaving the chapel the ex-King and Queen and the Duchess of Orleans were received with every demonstration of respect by a numerous assemblage, both French and English, who had not been able to obtain admittance within the church. At 2 o'clock a mass was again celebrated in the presence of an equally distinguished and numerous assemblage.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

A deplorable accident has caused the death of SIR ROBERT PEEL. He was riding up Constitution Hill about five o'clock on Saturday evening the 29th of June, when his horse shied at some passing object, and threw him over its head. He fell on his face, and mechanically kept hold of the rein, which brought down the animal upon him, its knees striking him between the shoulders. He was immediately lifted up; and being recognised by several gentlemen who were passing, was conveyed home in the carriage of Mrs. Lucas, of Bryanstone Square, which had come up at the time, attended by Sir James Clarke, the Queen's physician, who had observed the accident. Several eminent medical men were assembled, who ascertained that Sir Robert had suffered a fracture of the collar-bone and a severe injury of the shoulder. This was announced to the anxious public in a bulletin, which expressed a hope that he had received no internal injury. It was at first believed that he was going on favourably, and the bulletin of Monday morning stated that he had enjoyed refreshing sleep; but in the course of that day the symptoms became more and more alarming. In the evening he became delirious, and continued in that state during the greater part of the night. In his wanderings his thoughts were with his friends, and the names of Hardinge and Graham were frequently upon his lips. On Tuesday morning he again had a sound sleep, from which he woke with his mind quite composed. Towards evening it was evident that he was sinking fast, and that recovery was hopeless. The last offices of the Church were administered to him by Dr. Tomlinson, Bishop of Gibraltar, and about

eleven o'clock that night (the 2nd of July) he expired, blessing with his latest breath the afflicted family, and friends who surrounded his death-bed. After his death it was found that the fifth rib on the left side was broken; a discovery which could not be made sooner, as he was unable to bear the torture of a minute examination. This was probably the mortal injury; though, the family being disinclined to a post-mortem investigation, the precise cause of death was not ascertained.

The death of no public man has ever excited more general and unmingled sorrow, not only in the metropolis, but in every part of the country. During his illness the public anxiety was unbounded. The Queen, Prince Albert, and the most distinguished individuals of every political party, were unceasing in their inquiries; and the neighbourhood of his house was thronged by multitudes, eager to catch every gleam of hope. When the fatal result was known, the general feeling was strongly manifested. During the following day, in the neighbourhood of Whitehall, every window was closed; and in the City the same mark of respect was shown by a great number of mercantile establishments, and a great part of the shipping in the river hoisted flags half-mast high. We have recorded elsewhere the tributes paid to his memory by both houses of parliament; and many others, equally heartfelt, have been paid by corporate and public bodies in all parts of the kingdom. Such testimonies have not been confined to this country. At the opening of the sitting of the French Assembly on the 5th, it was agreed, on the proposition of M. Dupin, the president, to record on their minutes a token of regret and esteem for a statesman "who, during the whole course of his long and glorious career, has never expressed any sentiments towards France but those of kind feeling and justice, and whose language has always been that of courtesy towards the government."

On the 9th, Sir R. Peel's remains were deposited, according to his own desire, in the family vault of the parish church of Drayton Bassett. His obsequies were plain and simple, befitting the condition of a large landed proprietor, but nothing more. He was followed to the tomb by a few chosen friends, and the great mass of mourners consisted of the inhabitants of Tamworth and the rural districts round. The present Sir Robert Peel (who had arrived from Geneva the day before) was chief mourner, accompanied by Capt. J. Peel, Mr. F. Peel, Mr. A. Peel, Capt. W. Peel, R.N., the Dean of Worcester, Lord Villiers, Mr. Lawrence Peel, Colonel Peel, the Dean of York, the Right Hon. G. R. Dawson, Captain Peel, son of the Right Hon. W. Y. Peel, Sir J. Floyd, Mr. R. Peel, son of the Dean of Worcester; Captain E. Peel, son of Edmund Peel; Captain Charles Lenox Peel, Archibald Peel, son of Colonel Peel; the Lord Harley, Robert Peel Dawson, General Yates, Sir Hume Campbell, the corporation of Tamworth two and two, and the two Messrs. Rhoades. The pall-bearers were—Sir James Graham, Lord Aberdeen, Lord Hardinge, Sir Francis Lawley, Mr. Goulburn, Mr. B. Denison, Sir George Clerk, and Mr. Bonham. Arrived at the church, the Bishop of Gibraltar read the funeral service, and when it was concluded, the sons of the deceased advanced to the mouth of the vault, and each in his turn took a last farewell. At Tamworth, during the whole day of the funeral, business was completely suspended, the shop doors and windows closed, and the whole inhabitants in mourning. At Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Derby, Wolverhampton, Bristol, and many other large towns, similar marks of respect were paid to the memory of the departed.

Several monuments are to be raised to the illustrious statesman. The House of Commons have addressed the Queen, praying her sanction to a monument in Westminster Abbey, A great meeting took place at the Mansion House on the 15th, when the preliminary measures were taken for the erection of a monument in the city. And a subscription has been set on foot for a testimonial to be called "The Working-Man's Monument," at first limited to a penny, but now unlimited in amount, from a penny upwards. Mr. Cobden, in a letter to the newspapers, has suggested that this monument shall bear, as an inscription, the words with which Sir R. Peel closed his last speech as minister: "It may be that I shall leave a name sometimes remembered with expressions of goodwill in the abode of those whose lot it is to labour and to earn their daily bread by the sweat of their brow, when they shall recruit their exhausted strength with abundant and untaxed food, the sweeter because it is no longer leavened by a sense of injustice."

His Royal Highness the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE died on the 8th He had had an attack of cramp in the stomach on the 18th of June, but it had passed away and no further danger was apprehended. He became rapidly debilitated, however, during some days before his death, and expired somewhat suddenly and without suffering. He was in his 77th year, having been born on the 24th of February, 1774. He entered the army at an early age, and in 1794 attained the rank of Colonel. In 1803 he was made a General; in 1805 Colonel of the Coldstream Guards; and, in 1813, a Field Marshal. In 1801 he obtained his Ducal rank. In 1816, after the French had been expelled from Hanover, he was appointed viceroy of that State till 1837 when, by the death of William the Fourth, the succession opened to the Duke of Cumberland—He married, in 1818, the Princess Augusta Wilhelmina Louisa of Hesse Cassel, by whom he has left three children, Prince George of Cambridge, the grand Duchess of Mecklenburgh Strelitz, and the Princess Mary of Cambridge.—The late Duke enjoyed the unqualified esteem and good-will of the nation from the kindliness of his disposition, his active benevolence, and blameless purity in every relation of life.

On Tuesday the 16th His Royal Highness's remains were deposited in the parish church of Kew, with as little pomp and parade as could possibly attend the funeral of a royal personage.

Captain OWEN STANLEY, R.N., son of the late Bishop of Norwich, died on the 13th March off Sydney in New South Wales. He was a distinguished officer, and was employed in surveying the dangerous seas between Australia and the Indian Isles.

GEORGE CRANSTOUN LORD COREHOUSE, formerly one of the Judges of the Court of Session in Scotland, died at Corehouse on the 26th of June. He was called to the bar in 1793, and raised to the bench in 1826. In consequence of a shock of paralysis he resigned his office in 1839.

Mr. ROBERT DILLON BROWNE, Member of Parliament for the county of Mayo, died on the 1st inst. in the 39th year of his age.

The Earl of DONOUGHMORE died at Palmerston-house near Dublin on the 3rd. He distinguished himself by the part he took, along with Sir Robert Wilson, in the liberation of General Lavalette from the prison of the Conciergerie. He is succeeded in his title and estates by his eldest son, Lord Viscount Suirdale.

Lord PETRE died at his house in Mansfield Street on the 3rd, in his 57th year. He is succeeded in his title and estates by the Hon. W. Petre.

The Rev. W. KIRBY, the Entomologist, died at Barham, in Suffolk, on the 4th, in his 91st year.

ALEXANDER MUNRO, ESQ., died at Edinburgh on the 5th at the age of 90. He was brother of Sir Thomas Munro, late governor of Madras, and was Commissary-General of the Indian army during the administration of the Marquis Wellesley.

The Right Hon. Lord DUNBOYNE died at the Chateau Elchingen, Pas de Calais, on the 6th, in his 70th year.

General BOYER, ex-president of the Republic at Hayti, died at Paris on the 9th.

Mr. ROBERT STEPHENSON, the celebrated Engineer, died at Edinburgh on the 12th, at an advanced age.

Mrs. GLOVER, the celebrated actress, died on Tuesday the 16th, in her 69th year. She had taken her farewell benefit on the preceding Friday, and had played her favourite part of Mrs. Malaprop. Probably the excitement of this trying scene on her aged and enfeebled frame had the effect of hastening her death. Her maiden name was Betterton, and she was a descendant of the great actor of that name who flourished in the early part of the last century.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES

THERE is little to remark of the Colonial news of the month, but that the West Indians are making their usual complaints, and (we rejoice to add) more than their usual exertions. It is pretty plain that they see, though they have not the courage or candour as yet to confess, that their panacea must ultimately be found in the steady application of skill and science to better and more ample cultivation. It is rather curious (and a striking corroboration of this view) that the governor of St. Lucia should now express his strong conviction of the necessity for some such measure applied to the West Indies generally as that of the Irish Encumbered Estates Act.

The New Zealand Company has committed suicide. This act does not appear to create much concern, and may probably be taken for a not unhealthy indication that it is better to keep quite separate the duty of governing a colony and the hope of making a mercantile profit out of it. It is, at least, obvious that the Colonial Office has now a clearer field for its exertions, than when this Company ran the race of government along with it; and all who are interested in colonial affairs will have a right to demand that this greater power be warily and discreetly exerted in Downing Street. There is now a better opportunity for a colonial minister who thoroughly understands his duties, than has existed at any previous period of the English history.

The *Overland Mail* has brought dates from Bombay to the 2nd of June, Calcutta to the 1st of June, Madras to the 10th of June, and Hong-Kong to the 23rd of May. There is no political news from India or China of any importance. The Governor-General of India had arrived at Simla on the 2nd of May, and his health was so much improved by removal to a cooler climate, that it was no longer believed that he would leave India before the expiration of his term of service.

A tremendous accident happened at Benares on the 1st of May. A fleet of thirty boats, containing ordnance stores, was destroyed by the explosion of 3000 barrels of gunpowder with which they were freighted. Four hundred and twenty persons were killed on the spot, about 800 more were wounded, and a number of houses were levelled with the ground. The cause of the disaster remained unexplained, as not a human being was left alive who could tell the tale.

The famous oriental diamond the *Koh-i-noor*, or Mountain of Light, was presented to the queen at the levee on the 3rd, by the chairman and deputy-chairman of the East India Company; it had arrived from India a few days before under the custody of Colonel Mackeson, political agent, and Captain Ramsay, military secretary of the governor-general. This unrivalled jewel was discovered in the mines of Golconda, just three hundred years ago, and first belonged to the Mogul emperor Shah Jemaum, the father of the great Aurungzebe. Its subsequent transmissions have attended the revolutions of empires. When the Mogul empire was destroyed in 1739, by Nadir Shah, it was the most precious of the spoils carried off by the Persian conqueror. It afterwards became a trophy of the Affghan conquests; and from the sovereign of Cabul it passed in a similar way into the hands of the famous Runjeet Singh, the "Lion of Lahore." Its last transference was into the hands of England, in consequence of the issue of the Sikh war; and it is now the richest ornament of the British crown. It is of the shape and size of the pointed half of a hen's egg, and its value, calculated in the way employed in estimating diamonds, is stated to be two millions sterling.

The advices from Hong-Kong state that the City of Canton and the neighbouring towns are affected with a malignant fever, which has proved very fatal to the natives. It had not, however, made its appearance in the European factories.

In *Cambodia* and *Cochin-China* the cholera was raging fearfully, and at the date of the latest accounts, March last, it was feared that the same calamity would again visit the neighbouring country of Siam; where, during last year, it had carried off nearly one-fourth of the population. Commercial and agricultural operations were in a great measure suspended, and the sufferings of the inhabitants were augmented by a drought which was destroying the crops of rice and sugar.

On the 1st of May three pirates were hanged at West Point, Hong-Kong. Through some mismanagement they were kept on the scaffold for more than half-an-hour with the cords round their necks. The bolt could not be drawn, and after shaking the gallows violently, the police sent to the naval stores for a hammer, with which they knocked back the bolt. Two of the criminals fainted, and were held up until the bolt was forced back; the third kept calling "fidee, fidee;"—be quick, be quick. The scene was very disgusting.

The Overland mail has brought news from Ceylon to the 11th of June. The commissioners, sent to Kandy to inquire into the circumstances connected with Captain Watson's proclamations, had closed their proceedings, but the result was not made public.

Accounts from *Batavia*, of the 25th of May, mention an insurrection in the district of Bantam; which, though suppressed for the time, gave much uneasiness to the Dutch government. It is attributable to a foreign regent having been placed in power whom the natives refuse to acknowledge. The disturbances broke out during the native festivities in the month of April. The insurgents attacked the town of Anjeer, in the Straits of Sunda, and succeeded in burning the houses in the outskirts; but they were at length beaten by the military, and retired into their *fastnesses*, leaving many dead and wounded.—An earthquake had taken place at Amboyna, followed by an epidemic which carried off nearly all the European population. The governor and most of the civilians had died, and the garrison was reduced to seventeen men.

The *West India* Mail brings papers from Jamaica to the 22nd June. The only event which engaged public attention, was the early meeting of the legislature, which had been called by proclamation to assemble on the 25th of June. The principal business was to remove some defects from the bill, passed last session, for raising a loan to liquidate the island debts. The weather was favourable, and the island healthy. From Barbadoes, Tobago, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Grenada, the weather is described as favourable to agriculture. On the 31st of May, Tobago was visited by a severe squall, which blew down some labourers' houses, and did considerable damage to the grounds.

The advices from *Corfu* state that, on the 12th of June, Sir Henry Ward, the Lord High Commissioner issued a proclamation proroguing the House of Assembly to the 12th of December, and at the same time sent a special messenger to England with despatches to the Colonial Office.

The latest accounts from *Malta* state that the cholera, which had appeared in the island, was declining. From the 9th of June to the 10th of July there had been—of the population, 122 attacks and 89 deaths; in the fleet, 32 attacks and 18 deaths; in the garrison, 19 attacks and 19 deaths. Total cases, 173; total deaths, 126.

The Court of Policy of British Guiana, on the 13th of June, on considering a petition of the inhabitants for a reform in the existing institutions of the colony, passed a resolution to the effect, that the legislative institutions of British Guiana are unsuited to the existing state of society, and that a house of assembly and an elective legislative council should be established in their stead. It was further resolved, that the governor be requested to transmit copies of the foregoing resolution and petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

There are advices from *Toronto* to the 5th of July. The Canadian Assembly had agreed, by a large majority, to an address to the queen, expressive of their attachment to the crown and government of Great Britain, and their determination to maintain the connexion with the mother country unimpaired. It is stated, however, that many who voted for this address are in favour of making the second branch of the legislature elective. Some local measures of importance were engaging the attention of the house, particularly a school bill, and a bill for enabling municipal corporations to purchase railway stock. A bill has also been introduced to permit the introduction of foreign reprints of British copyright books on the payment of a duty of twenty per cent. Two calamitous accidents had taken place. On the 16th of June the steam-ship Griffith, running between Buffalo and Toronto, was destroyed by fire, and out of 326 persons on board, only 40 were saved. A fire at Montreal, on the 15th of June, destroyed the church of St. Amis, and upwards of 200 houses.

A large portion of the table rock of the Niagara Falls has fallen away. A carriage was on the rock at the time, in which there were a man and a boy; they escaped, but the carriage went down. The effect of the crash was felt for miles around.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

A meeting of influential members of both Houses of Parliament took place on the 8th, to devise the best course of proceeding in order to induce Her Majesty's government to approximate the Australian colonies *by Means of Steam*, to Great Britain; when it was resolved that steps should be immediately taken to bring the whole subject under the attention of both Houses of Parliament. As a preliminary course, it was arranged amongst other measures, that an address to Her Majesty should be proposed in the House of Commons by Lord

Naas, M.P., praying for the immediate establishment of steam communication with the Australian colonies. It was also announced that petitions to the legislature on behalf of the object were in course of signature.

At the annual meeting of the *New Zealand Company* on the 4th, it was resolved to resign the charter and dissolve the company, on the ground that their means were exhausted, and that the proceedings of the government had rendered them unable to carry on the work of colonisation. It was also resolved to address a letter on the subject to the colonial secretary. Another meeting was held on the 16th, with Mr. Aglionby in the chair. He stated that no answer had been received to the letter addressed to Earl Grey; that the company still existed as a corporate body, as the proprietors had as yet only expressed their readiness to resign the charter, and the surrender had not actually been accepted; and that no expenditure would be allowed but such as was necessary for winding up the affairs of the company; but, he added, all this would depend on the answer received from the colonial office.

The sixth party of *Female Emigrants*, sent out to Australia by the society lately formed under the auspices of Mr. Sidney Herbert, embarked, on the 19th, on board the William Hyde, to proceed to Port Adelaide. This party is comparatively small, only twenty-one in number. It is the last that will be sent to Australia this season; it being the wish of the committee to obtain some intelligence of the success of the first party that went out in the Culloden some months ago, before they send more to that quarter of the world.

A parliamentary paper just issued, gives some useful information respecting the *Australian Colonies*. The population of the colonies (omitting New Zealand) in 1839 was 170,676, and in ten years (1839 to 1848) it had reached 333,764, being an increase of 163,088. The imports had decreased in the ten years, having been 3,376,673*l.* in 1839, and 2,578,442*l.* in 1848. There was an increase in the exports in the ten years of 1,008,887*l.* They amounted in 1839 to 1,845,428*l.*, and in 1848 to 2,854,315*l.* The shipping inwards was 267,353 tons in 1839, and 353,321 in 1848, being an increase of 85,968, whilst the shipping outward was 267,133 tons in 1839, and 341,583 in 1848, showing an increase of 74,450 tons.

Another of Mrs. Chisholm's *Family-group Meetings of Emigrants* was held on the 16th at the Royal British Institution, City Road. The hall was crowded, and all the persons of distinction, who co-operate with Mrs. Chisholm in her benevolent plans, were present. The meeting was of the same character as those which preceded it, but on a much larger scale. In the course of the evening the following information was given as to the intended proceedings of the society. It is proposed to send out 25,000 emigrants, for which purpose loans will be required to the amount of 50,000*l.* The whole number of 25,000 is to be spread over four years: in the first year 8300; in the second, 6000; in the third 6500; and in the fourth, 4200. The loans towards the passage will be repaid at or before the expiration of two years; and the groups, consisting of families and single individuals, will pay a proportionate forfeit if any one of the group should prove a defaulter.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE French kaleidoscope changes again. The variable and very brittle atoms misnamed "order," in the Assembly and the Elysée, have been thrown into a quite new combination with the bit of rusty but resolute iron called Changarnier, and people will still be found to admire and be hopeful, till the wretched toy takes another shape, and the Elysée or the Tuileries receives another tenant. The attitude of all parties at present is that of waiting for a *coup d'état*, which no party has the courage or even the means to attempt. Meanwhile the press is gagged; and from the committee of permanence which as it were holds the power and authority of the chamber during the term of prorogation, the partisans of the President have been carefully and scornfully excluded. There does not seem to be a doubt, that, like the horses of Duncan, and perhaps maddened, like them, by the near prospect of the violent dissolution of their respective masters, all the various despotic sections which have for the past year done their best to make a military barrack of France, are now preparing to devour each other. It is too much to hope that a moderate and rational republican government should finally arise in their place. No one can reasonably anticipate any present realisation of constitutional government in France.

That worst of all nuisances, a war between two small states, involving the inconvenience, and likely at last to compel the re-interference, of more important neighbours, has arisen from a precipitate ratification of peace between Denmark and Prussia; the latter somewhat shabbily withdrawing the troops she had sent to the help of the Schleswegers and Holsteiners, it is said at the dictation of Russia. The gallant and obstinate little duchies have again in consequence challenged Denmark to the field; and the result of the struggle, whichever way it turn, will yet more gravely complicate that most inextricable of all complications, the "German question." The disgrace of Haynau is a signal example of retribution; though the Nemesis (as frequently happens in such cases) falls from a quarter least looked to or expected. The civilian tools of despotism had become weary of the arrogance of their too capable military instrument.

The sudden, and much to be lamented, death of the President of the United States, has lifted an obscure man to the presidency, who will probably (as Mr. Tyler did) fall into the hands of abler and less scrupulous men. Violent party advice had already sadly worried poor General Taylor, and is not likely to meet with much sober or statesmanlike resistance in President Fillmore.

The French Assembly, on the 29th of June, received the report of the committee on the proposed bill for restricting the *Liberty of the Press*. The debate on this measure commenced on the 8th inst., and gave occasion to a violent scene. M. Rouher, the Minister of Justice, had described the Revolution of February as a "disastrous catastrophe;" the opposition exclaimed loudly against the expression as an indignity to the Republic, and called on the President, M. Dupin, to censure the speaker. M. Dupin refused, saying that "he would not be forced by clamour to call a minister to order." M. Girardin entered the tribune pale with excitement, declared he would not sit in an assembly where such language was permitted, and exhorted the opposition to resign *en masse*. This appeal being received with laughter by the Right, he came down and wrote something which was supposed to be his resignation. In the evening there was a meeting of above 200 of the opposition, who agreed to a protest which was handed in by M. Crémieux at next day's sitting, but the President refused to receive it. The debate then proceeded on the first article of the bill, which enacts that proprietors of journals shall lodge in the treasury a *cautionnement* or security, varying in amount according to the population of the town in which the journal appears, and the frequency of its publication. M. Victor Hugo made a powerful speech against the bill; and several amendments were made and rejected. On the 10th, M. Tinguy moved an amendment that all articles in journals should be signed by their writers. It was violently opposed, and, after a stormy debate, was unexpectedly carried by 313 to 281. Much agitation ensued, and, the sitting

having been suspended for a short time, an amendment was brought forward by the committee, confining the writer's signature to the original manuscript; but, on the following day this amendment was rejected by 378 to 255; and, on the 12th, the provision that articles should bear the signature of the writers was adopted as an article of the law. On the 15th, an amendment, by M. de Riany, that newspapers publishing *feuilletons* with novels or romances should pay a supplementary stamp of one centime beyond the ordinary stamp duty, was carried, after violent opposition by 351 to 252. On the 16th, the bill was finally passed by a majority of 390 to 265.

On the 18th, M. Lamartinière, the editor of the Pouvoir, was brought before the assembly to answer for an article in that journal reflecting severely on the proceedings of that body. The charge against him consisted of two counts, an offence against the assembly and an attack on the constitution. The result of the ballot was, on the first count 273 for condemnation, 154 for acquittal. On the second count the assembly declared itself incompetent to judge. The assembly condemned M. Lamartinière in the maximum penalty of 5000 francs.

The President made an excursion on the 14th to Compiegne, where he was received by the authorities, the military, and the inhabitants, with demonstrations of unbounded enthusiasm. The artillery fired salutes, triumphal arches were erected, and flags floated from every housetop. He performed some popular acts, such as witnessing a wedding in humble life and giving the young couple a handsome present, visiting the bedside of an old sergeant of hussars, whose leg had been broke by a fall from his horse, and speaking so kindly that the old man swooned with delight. The shouts among the crowd were, "Vive le President!" "Vive Louis Napoleon!" "Vive l'Empereur!" The President returned to Paris the following night, much gratified, doubtless, with his reception.

A youth of seventeen, named George Walker, a compositor in Galignani's printing-office, was arrested on the 5th, close to the door of the Elysée, for having declared his intention to *Assassinate the President*. A loaded pistol was found on him. He belongs to a respectable family, but his own conduct had been dissolute, and he had frequented socialist clubs and read socialist writings. On his examination it was found that he was evidently insane, and he was conveyed to the Bicêtre.

On Sunday the 7th, a person named Poitevin ascended on *Horseback in a Balloon* from the Champ de Mars, in the presence of thousands of eager spectators. He descended in safety about eight leagues from Paris.

The prorogation of the assembly being about to take place, it has become necessary to appoint a "committee of permanence" consisting of twenty-five members, who have the right of convoking the assembly in case of urgency during the prorogation. The ballot for this committee began on the 22nd and was not closed at the time of the last accounts; but it exhibited the effects of the coalition between the mountain and the ultra-legitimists.

Public attention in *Germany* is chiefly occupied by the treaty of peace entered into between Prussia and Denmark, and the renewal of hostilities between Denmark and Schleswig Holstein. On the 14th, the troops of the Duchies, under General Willisen, advanced into Schleswig, and two days afterwards the Danish forces also entered Schleswig at various points. An immediate collision between them was expected.

General Haynau has been *Dismissed* by the Austrian government, in consequence of having brought to trial a number of the Hungarian deputies involved in the late insurrection, and afterwards pardoning them on his own responsibility. The general, who is known to be a natural son of the reigning Elector of Hesse's grandfather, is to take up his residence in Cassel.

Little progress seems making towards the *German Confederation*. The congress of plenipotentiaries continues sitting at Frankfort, but little is known of their proceedings. It is said that, expecting nothing from the attempts at coming to an agreement between Austria and Prussia, they see no reason for delaying longer the business that has brought them together, viz., forming the basis of the establishment of a central power.

The *Queen of Spain* was delivered on the 12th inst. of a son, who died a few minutes after birth. The queen has recovered her health.—The Count de Montemolin, son of Don Carlos, was married on the 10th, at the royal palace of Caserta, near Naples, to the Princess Caroline, sister of the king. On the same day the Spanish ambassador quitted Naples.

Accounts from *Lisbon*, of the 29th, state that an American squadron had arrived in the Tagus to enforce the claims of the United States against the Portuguese government. The commander of the squadron had given twenty-one days for consideration.

The intelligence from *New York* comes down to the 11th instant. General Zachary Taylor, the President of the United States, died at Washington on the night of Monday the 8th. His illness first became known the day before his death, when he was said to be suffering from an attack of diarrhœa. He was in his 64th year. He is succeeded by Mr. Fillmore, formerly Vice-president, who was sworn into office on the 10th. The cabinet, as a matter of course, had resigned, and several changes were spoken of. The late President's funeral was fixed for the 13th.

The cholera has re-appeared in several of the western cities. At Cincinnati there have been sixty-three fatal cases in one day.

A great sensation has been produced by the confession by Professor Webster of the murder of Dr. Parkman. It is of great length, and the statements are consistent and plausible. Dr. Webster declares that Dr. Parkman went to his room by appointment; he (Webster) wishing to explain his inability to pay up immediately the money he owed, and to throw himself upon his creditor's indulgence; that Parkman would not listen to him, but provoked him beyond endurance by taunting reproaches and opprobrious epithets, and that, in the heat of passion thus raised, he dealt Parkman a blow with a piece of wood lying at hand, which instantly killed him; that the thought of proclaiming the deed and explaining the circumstances never entered his head, but that his only impulse was to take means for concealment; and that, accordingly, he dismembered the body and endeavoured to put it out of the way in the manner which transpired at the trial. He concludes by solemn asseverations that he never for a moment premeditated the murder, which was entirely the result of uncontrollable passion. Doubts were entertained whether this confession would have any effect in saving his life. The governor and council of the State were engaged in considering the case and in examining many petitions in his favour.

The City of Albany had been visited by a thunderstorm of unexampled violence, which had done much damage. Several bridges had been swept away. Among others, a bridge on the Utica railway was carried away just before a passenger train reached the spot. Part of the train was precipitated into the swollen stream, and several persons perished.

The Governor of Cuba has declared that all the American prisoners belonging to Lopez's expedition shall be surrendered in due time to the American authorities; thus avoiding a rupture between the United States and Spain.

Congress continued to be occupied with the Slavery question, but the debates had not yet been attended with any result.

The intelligence from *California* contains the account of a fearful conflagration at San Francisco on the 4th of May, which had destroyed one-fourth of the city. It was supposed to be the work of an incendiary, and a reward of 5000 dollars was offered for his apprehension. —A party of miners at North Fork had been attacked by a numerous band of savages; several of the miners were killed, but the assailants were at length beaten off with great loss.—Extravagant stories are told of the quantities of gold found at a place called Tuolomo Placer, near Columbia city. Two large masses of pure gold, the one above ten, and the other above twenty pounds' weight, had been dug up there.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

VERY few books of any mark or character, with one exception, have been published during the past month; but university reform has made greater progress than the apparently unsatisfactory result of the renewed debate would seem to indicate, and in this important question is involved not only the better training of men to the service of literature, but to that of legislation and public life. The steady persistance of Government in the proposed University Commission has had its due effect, and the furious outcry of illegality has dropped to a very urgent plea of inexpedieney. Thus *cadit quæstio*. The leading advocates of the universities are now fain to confess that there are "many most extensive and important improvements" which they trust to see effected by the universities themselves, if the Government will only be quiet. But the Government is too far pledged to recede; and, if it would test what is likely to be done by *laissez-faire* in the coming half-century, it has but to note what advances the last fifty years have made, by observing the perfect applicability to the existing state of the universities, of what was written of them, at the commencement of the century, by the poet Wordsworth. This curious revelation, which the writer's recent death has caused to be made opportunely, is remarked upon below. Nor will we hesitate to add that the course already taken by university authorities on questions of education quite apart from their own institutions, should in itself be held quite decisive against their claim to have the settlement of this great reform entrusted to them. They have contribnted to the general educational discussion its bitterest and most narrow-minded opponents; and it is to them we chiefly owe that still disgraceful obstruction of the efforts of the Privy Council to extend the blessings of instruction to the people, which rests on no better plea than their hatred of admitting laymen to any share in the management of schools connected with the Church, however assisted those schools may be by the public money of the State. Priestly arrogance has rarely ventured further even in the times and conntries most degraded and enslaved by it.

The most prominent and interesting publication of the month has been that of Wordsworth's autobiographical poem of *The Prelude; or, Growth of a Poet's Mind*. It consists of fourteen books, is of larger bulk than *The Excursion*, and is written in blank verse, in the style of that poem. It is addressed to Coleridge; and, though its auto-biographical details have till now withheld it from publication, appears to have been written at the opening of the century. Wordsworth had then retired to his native mountains with the hope of being enabled to construct a literary work that might live; and, desiring to ascertain how far nature and education had qualified him for such employment, he undertook to record, in verse, the origin and progress of his own powers, as far as he was acquainted with them. *The Prelude* was the result, as he has himself long ago explained in his preface to *The Exeursion;* and adopting his own illustration, it will be found to bear something of the same relation to the more complete developments of its author's mind and genius as the ante-chapel of a Gothic church has to the body of the edifice. The portions of it which will probably strike most readers, and will certainly be read with peculiar interest just now, are those descriptive of his residence at Cambridge, and its unfavourable effect upon him. He condemns the trivial influences to which youths not naturally given to hard work are exposed; he speaks unfavourably of the kind of struggles elicited by the competition of hard-working students; he denounces compulsory chapel-attendance as of most evil tendency; and, in many passages of eloquent beauty, doing delightful homage to the great names and time-honoured associations connected with both universities, he sighs for the adoption of improvements which might see them once more the kindly and hospitable retreats of destitute scholars, and the truly quiet, meditative nurseries of knowledge and religion.

Another note-worthy poem of the month, also a posthumous publication though written some years ago, is a dramatic piece attributed to Mr. Beddoes, and partaking largely of his well-known eccentricity and genius, called *Death's Jest-Book or the Fool's Tragedy*. A republication of Mr. Cottle's twenty four books of *Alfred*, though the old pleasant butt and "jest-book" of his ancient friend Charles Lamb, hardly deserves even so many words of mention. Nor is there much novelty in *A Selection from the Poems and Dramatic Works of Theodore Körner*, though the translation is a new one, and by the clever translator of the *Nibelungen*. To this brief catalogue of works of fancy we may, perhaps, properly add the mention of two somewhat clever tales in one volume, with the title of *Hearts in Mortmain and Cornelia*, intended to illustrate the working of particular phases of mental emotion; and another by Mrs. Trollope, called *Pettieoat Government*.

In the department of history we have nothing more important to notify than a somewhat small volume with the very large title of the *Correspondence of the Emperor Charles V. and his Ambassadors at the Courts of England and Franee;* which turns out to be a limited selection from letters existing in the archives at Vienna, but not uninteresting to English readers, from the fact of their incidental illustrations of the history of our Henry the Eighth, and the close of Wolsey's career. Two books of less pretension have contributed new facts to the history of the late civil war in Hungary; the first from the Austrian point of view by an *Eye-witness*, and the second from the Hungarian by *Max Schlesinger*. Mr. Baillie Cochrane has also contributed his mite to the elucidation of recent revolutions in a volume called *Young Italy*, which is chiefly remarkable for its praise of Lord Brougham, its defence of the Pope, its exaggerated scene-painting of the murder of Rossi, its abuse of the Roman Republic, and its devotion of half a line to the mention of—Mazzini!

Better worthy of brief record are the few miscellaneous publications with which we shall conclude our summary; and which comprise an excellent new translation of *Rochefoucauld's Maxims*, with a better account of the author, and more intelligent notes, than exist in any previous edition;—most curious and interesting *Memorials of the Empire of Japan in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, which Mr. Rundell of the East India House has issued under the superintendence of the Hakluyt Society, and which illustrate our English relations with those Japonese in a manner not so satisfactory as is exactly desirable;—an intelligent and striking summary of the *Antiquities of Richborough, Reculver, and Lymne*, written by Mr. Roach Smith and illustrated by Mr. Fairholt, which exhibits the results of recent discoveries of many remarkable Roman antiquities in Kent;—and a brief unassuming narrative of the Hudson's Bay Company's *Expedition to the Shores of the Arctic Sea in* 1846 *and* 1847, by the commander of the expedition, Mr. John Rae.

Mademoiselle Rachel terminated on the 26th her engagement at the St. James's Theatre, which has lasted the greater part of the month. Besides performing a round of her principal characters in the tragedies of Corneille and Racine, she appeared as the heroine of Scribe's drama *Adrienne Lecouvreur*—a part which made an immense impression on the public. With Rachel's departure this theatre closed for the season.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of June 28,—JOSEPH BOYCOT, Kidderminster, draper.—GEORGE HOLMES and HENRY HOLMES, Derby, ironmongers.—WILLIAM JONES, Bristol, stationer.—JOSEPH MOORE, Hanover Street, Islington, victualler.—MOSES WRANGLE, Boston, Lincolnshire, cabinet-maker.

July 2.—JOHN BULL, South-Audley Street, ship-owner.—JAMES CORBETT, Llantillio Pertholey, Monmouthshire.—THOMAS EDWARDS, Newport, Monmouthshire, ironfounder.—SAMUEL LAVINGTON, Devizes, grocer.—JOSEPH LOMAS, Manchester, warehouseman.—THOMAS LUCKES, Exeter, provision dealer.—CLEMENT NUTTALL, Bacup, Lancashire, innkeeper.—WILLIAM RIDLER, Cowlersley, Yorkshire, contractor for public works.—EDWARD BEVAN THOMAS, Leominster, wine-merchant.

July 5.—JOSEPH BOYCOT, Kidderminster, draper.—THOMAS BROADBENT, Halifax, Yorkshire, draper.—SARAH DAY, Coventry, ribbon manufacturer.—GEORGE FULLER, Poultry, City, auctioneer —JOSEPH NASH and THOMAS NEALE, Reigate and Dorking, Surrey, bankers.—ROBERT HARDMAN PARKINSON, Manchester, warehouseman.—JOHN RYAN, Mark-lane, City, and Manor-lane, Bermondsey, manufacturing chemist.—JAMES THOMPSON, Manchester, cement and gunpowder-dealer.

July 9.—NEVILLE BROWN, Hounslow heath, licensed victualler.—THOMAS DALTON, Coventry, silk-dyer.—GEORGE WILLIAM LAIR, Landport, Hampshire, auctioneer.—JOHN BUDGE SPARKE, Torquay, Devonshire, hatter.—JOHN TAYLOR, jun., Littleworth, Gloucestershire, licensed victualler.—JOHN WALLACE, Carlisle, grocer.—WILLIAM GEORGE DENNETT WALLIS, Grove-pl., Lisson-grove, bill-broker.

July 12.—WILLIAM CLARIDGE, Bromley St. Leonard, Middlesex, butcher.—CHARLES GARLICK, Charterhouse-sq., Manchester, warehouseman.—JAMES HENRY GILL, Plumber's-row, City-rd., grocer.—JOHN JONES, Brynmawr, Breconshire, coal merchant.—GEORGE WILLIAM LAW, Landport, Hants, auctioneer.—THOMAS ROLLASON, and WILLIAM BURMAN, Birmingham, glass and china dealers.—BURROWES WILCOCKS ARTHUR SLEIGH, Bedford-st., Strand, and Thurlow-sq., Brompton, newspaper proprietor.—SAMUEL WILKES, Birmingham, clock-dial maker.—JOSHUA WOODWARD, Loxley, Yorkshire, paper manufacturer.

July 16.—EDWARD ROBSON ARTHUR, North Shields, ship-owner.—GEORGE COLSTON BAYLIS, Cardiff, dealer in flour.—FRANCIS BLANCHARD and WILLIAM PASSMORE, Leeds, tailors.—THOMAS DALTON and THOMAS EDWARDS, Birmingham, iron-founders.—HENRY HART DAVIS, Battersea, Surrey, builder.—WILLIAM DAYMENT, Christian-st., St. George's in the East, tailor.—GEORGE KNIGHT, Worthing, Sussex.—SAMUEL NICHOLSON, York, trader.—JOHN VANDERSLUYSE SCANTLEBURY, Conduit-st. East, Paddington, carpenter.—JOHN SCORAH, Pontefract, Yorkshire, seed-merchant.—JOHN SHARROCK, Toxteth Park, Lancashire, licensed-victualler.—JOHN WELCH, Ashby-de-la Zouch, Leicestershire, draper,—SAMUEL WILKES, Birmingham, clock-dial-maker.—THOMAS WILLIAMS, Trowbridge, Wilts, auctioneer.—WILLIAM MINTER WOOD, Dover, hosier.

July 19.—TIMOTHY BOURNE BOURNE, Liverpool, cotton-broker.—THOMAS DYSON, Hardinge-terrace, Newington, railway-contractor.—GILBERT FINLAY GIRDWOOD, Maida-hill, chemist.—GEORGE SHEPHEARD, Modbury, Devonshire, linen-draper.

July 23. ROBERT DAY BUST, Reading, Berkshire, auctioneer.—WILLIAM WARD EVANS, Ludlow, Shropshire, butcher.—EDWARD FOSTER, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire, agricultural machinist.—RALPH HAMMOND, Macclesfield, inn-keeper.—WILLIAM HASLAM, Hertford, chemist.—JOHN HAYWARD, Hisland, Shropshire, scrivener.—EDWARD ROUND and WILLIAM ROUND, Tipton, Staffordshire, timber-merchants.—RALPH NUTTALL, Macclesfield, silk manufacturer.

July 26. THOMAS BINCKES, Brunswick-place, Blackheath, dealer in Berlin wools.—CHARLES BUNYARD, Mark-lane, City, seedsman.—ROBERT FAIRLEY, Sunderland, chemist.—GEORGE GARRARD, Saxmundham, Suffolk, ironmonger.—DIRK HORATIO HALEY, Lodge-road, Birmingham, ironfounder.—WILLIAM RAYNHAM, Ladbrooke-road, Notting-hill, builder.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

July 16. WILLIAM BRANSCOMBE, Blandford, Dorsetshire, common carrier.

THE STOCK AND SHARE MARKETS.

City, July 27.

The English Stock Market has been very quiet during the month, but the tone has been very firm, and an improvement of nearly one per cent. has been established. Our last monthly review left Consols at 96 to $\frac{1}{8}$ *ex. div.*; from this point they moved steadily upwards till the 5th inst., when the price touched 97; but a few days after, the unsettled aspect of the question pending between Denmark and the Duchies began to exercise an influence on the market, causing some degree of flatness. Prices have since rallied, however, and Consols are now quoted $96\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$.

The Railway Share Market has not been so steady this month, the prices of all descriptions having receded, to a greater or less extent, from the quotations previously ruling. Within the last three or four days, however, more firmness has been apparent, accompanied with a decided tendency to better prices.

STOCKS.

	Prices during the Month.		
	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols, *ex.div.*	$97\frac{1}{8}$	$95\frac{7}{8}$	$96\frac{7}{8}$
Three per Cent. Reduced	$97\frac{3}{4}$	$96\frac{3}{8}$	$97\frac{1}{2}$
Three and a quarter per Cents.	$99\frac{1}{8}$	$97\frac{3}{4}$	$99\frac{1}{8}$
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860	$8\frac{3}{8}$	$8\frac{3}{16}$	$8\frac{1}{4}$
Bank Stock	$212\frac{1}{2}$	$208\frac{1}{2}$	212
India Stock	270	265	268
South Sea Stock	$107\frac{3}{8}$	$106\frac{1}{8}$	$106\frac{1}{4}$
Exchequer Bills	70*s.* prm.	66*s.* prm	70*s.* prm.
India Bonds	92*s.* prm.	86*s.* prm.	90*s.* prm.

RAILWAYS.

Paid.		Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
100	Bristol and Exeter	64	63	64
50	Caledonian	$7\frac{7}{8}$	$6\frac{7}{8}$	$7\frac{1}{4}$
20	Eastern Counties	$7\frac{3}{8}$	$6\frac{3}{4}$	$6\frac{3}{4}$
24	Great Northern	$10\frac{3}{8}$	$8\frac{1}{4}$ *ex. in.*	$8\frac{7}{8}$
100	Great North of England	$237\frac{1}{2}$	235	237
100	Great Western	$59\frac{3}{4}$	55	57
50	Hull and Selby	97	96	$96\frac{1}{2}$
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	$37\frac{1}{2}$	$33\frac{1}{2}$	$36\frac{1}{2}$
50	Leeds and Bradford	94	91	$91\frac{1}{4}$
100	London and Brighton	84	79	$81\frac{1}{2}$
100	London and North Western	$110\frac{1}{2}$	$108\frac{1}{4}$	$110\frac{1}{2}$
100	London and South Western	$59\frac{1}{2}$	$54\frac{1}{4}$	59
100	Midland	$35\frac{1}{4}$	$32\frac{1}{4}$	34
$17\frac{1}{2}$	North Staffordshire	$6\frac{5}{8}$	6	$6\frac{3}{8}$
$33\frac{1}{3}$	South Eastern	$14\frac{7}{8}$	$13\frac{3}{4}$	$13\frac{7}{8}$
25	York, Newcastle, and Berwick	15	$13\frac{5}{8}$	$14\frac{1}{8}$
50	York and North Midland	16	$13\frac{7}{8}$	$15\frac{1}{4}$

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, July 27.

The tendency of prices in this market has been decidedly upwards, principally owing to the unsettled state of the weather during the greater part of the month, and a large business was transacted previous to the 12th inst. at gradually improving rates. The tone of the market is at present very firm. The London averages last announced are as follows:—

Wheat, per quarter, 46*s.* 7*d.*
Barley, 24*s.* 4*d.*
Oats, 18*s.* 5*d.*
Beans, 25*s.* 11*d.*
Peas, 27*s.*

Flour, Town made, delivered, per sack, 36*s.* to 38*s.*
„ American, per barrel, of 196 lbs., 20*s.* to 22*s.*

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt.—Waterford, 44*s.* to 58*s.*; Belfast, 40*s.* to 42*s.*
Beef, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*
Butter, per cwt., Fresh, 8*s.* to 12*s.* per 12 lbs.; Carlow, 1st, 66*s.* to 68*s.*; Waterford, 1st, 63*s.* to 66*s.*; Dutch Friesland, 66*s.* to 68*s.*; Leer, 56*s.* to 60*s.*
Cheese, per cwt.—American, 34*s.* to 43*s.*; Dutch (Gouda), old, 32*s.* to 38*s.*
Eggs, per 120, 4*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.*
Hams, per cwt.—American, dried, 34*s.*; Limerick, 64*s.* to 70*s.*; Belfast, 58*s.* to 64*s.*
Lamb, per 8 lbs., 3*s.* to 4*s.*
Mutton, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Shaws, 65*s.* to 80*s.*; Kent and Essex Regents, 60*s.* to 90*s.*
Pork, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 8*d.*; American, new, per barrel, 40*s.*
Veal, per 8 lbs., 1*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt.—Trinidad, 35*s.* to 46*s.*; Brazil, 27*s.* 6*d.* to 28*s.* 6*d.*
Coffee.—Good ord., Native Ceylon, per cwt., 43*s.* to 43*s.* 6*d.*; good ord. West India, 37*s.* to 40*s.*; Fine Mocha, 65*s.* to 72*s.*
Rice, per cwt., Bengal white, 9*s.* to 12*s.*; Java, 11*s.* to 12*s.* 6*d.*
Sago, per cwt., Pearl, 19*s.* to 24*s.*
Sugar, per cwt., Loaves, 50*s.* to 51*s.* 6*d.*; good Jamaica, 37*s.* 6*d.* to 38*s.* 6*d.*; Brazil 31*s.* to 42*s.*
Tea, per lb. (duty 2*s.* 1*d.*), ord. Congou, $10\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Souchong, com. to fine, 11*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*; ord. to fine Hyson, 1*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*: Imperial, 1*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*

Candles, per 12 lbs. 4*s.* 6*d* to 5*s.* | Coals, per ton, 13*s.* to 16*s.* 6*d.*

OILS.

Pale Seal, per ton, 32*l.*
Sperm, 84*l.* to 85*l.*
Cod, 35*l.*
Palm. 28*l.* to 29*l.*
Olive Gallipoli, 43*l.* to 44*l.*

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Monthly Supplement to "*HOUSEHOLD WORDS*," *Conducted by CHARLES DICKENS.*

THE

HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE

OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1850.] FROM THE 28TH JULY TO THE 28TH AUGUST. [PRICE 2*d.*

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

MR. SHANDY held all kinds of swearing to be bad, and would have been confirmed in this opinion if he had lived to hear the debates on Baron Rothschild's claim to sit in the House of Commons. Scriptural precept never received holier warrant than in the wisdom of the inspired injunction, Swear not at all. If swearing does not tend to utter indifference in the matter of oaths, it certainly tends to distinctions between what is sworn and what is unsworn, very fatal to the sanctions of truth in half the affairs of life. Nothing can be necessary to truth in the witness-box, or at the table of the House of Commons, which elsewhere is not necessary to it; or the observance of which in the one case, does not to a certain extent damage its non-observance in the other; nor is there any argument producible for oaths which is not directly drawn from their own effects upon society, or which would not yield to the higher and better influence of an enactment restoring solemnity to truth on all occasions, and excusing its laxity in none. In this respect the case of a Member of Parliament is the same as that of a common witness; and the distinctions attempted to be taken in the debate, between oaths of verity and oaths promissory, were properly scouted. The Jew is excluded from the legislature for his respect to an oath, by men who sit there in very right of their indifference to one; just as the law shuts out of the witness-box a man whose scruples are honest, and listens to him whose conscience is accommodating. Rabelais contains few greater absurdities than these swearing debates will be to the readers of another century. Here it suffices to mention that the greater part of them turned upon the question of whether any words of an oath could be omitted as immaterial, at the swearer's discretion; that the first of the two principal divisions affirmed Baron Rothschild's seat as not full, the second declaring it to be not empty; and that they left the matter, on the whole, somewhat worse than they found it.

The Session was afterwards brought to a close with a great deal of hard work, making up as usual for wasted time; but failing to overtake some important Irish bills, and one very important English one. The Savings' Bank Bill never reached its second reading; and the compromise of ten shillings in the pound offered to the Cuffe Street depositors, will be but a sorry satisfaction to many other bodies of the most important class of men in any country, poor, honest, industrious, frugal, saving men, whose danger from dishonest actuaries and irresponsible trustees ought much earlier to have been the care of a government which can have no safer or more reliable support. Nor will it be inappropriate to add, while on the subject of savings, that, manifold as Lord Brougham's subjects of scandal have been during the last month, he has discovered the greatest scandal of all in the fact that the savings from the Queen's Civil List are kept by herself, and not paid into the public treasury; which would be just as reasonable as that his own savings, out of his pension of five thousand a year, secured in like manner by statute, should go to the removal of public nuisances, or in alleviation of the expenditure on lunacy. The Queen, admitting that no more than what was just was settled upon her at her accession (which Lord Brougham at least must admit, since at that time he anticipated nothing less than a royal insolvency as the result of the arrangement), has been honourably careful in pecuniary matters; and, out of her own income of sixty thousand a year, and the balance of three hundred and twenty-five thousand on the other five departments of the Civil List, has managed, during the past year, to show an unexpected surplus of thirty-eight thousand pounds; whereupon Lord Brougham rushes off into the city to tell his old Whig friends the fishmongers, who used to cheer him when he denounced the profligacy and tyranny of the Court thirty years ago, that they have lost all spirit because they don't cheer him when he does the same thing now; and rushes back to the House of Lords to fall foul of his old Whig friends there, for having basked in Court smiles till they have no relish for popular abuse; and finally accuses both Houses of Parliament of an absolute prostration of the understanding, when such a thing as even the word *Prince* happens to be mentioned in the country. But all this, thrown out in intervals of abuse of newspaper editors, and other oddities of a similar kind, seem to pass for nothing that may not easily be pardoned to the extravagant and erring spirit which all are glad to remember so capable of better things. Her Majesty's appearance on the prorogation day showed certainly no sign of temper ruffled by anything unpleasing. She entered with her usual dignified ease, greeted Lords and Commons with her accustomed grace, and, as she occupied the throne, so picturesquely arranged her person and robes of state as to give an admirable "sitting" to Mr. Gibson the sculptor, who had been placed for that purpose exactly opposite royalty, and whose plain black coat seemed oddly out of place in a scene glittering with diamonds and gold lace, epaulettes and plumes. And so the speech was read, in tones that no peer of Parliament can make so audible or clear in that gorgeous chamber; and Lords and Commons were sent packing to their private affairs.

Thus Parliament is up (to express it in other words, one might say the Sea-Serpent has reappeared in the newspapers), and everyone, heartily sick of the subject, is prepared to listen to all kinds of abuse of it, for which there is no lack of providers. But Lord Lyndhurst, who used to spend all the session in obstructing what the Whigs wanted to do, and then abuse them at the end of it for doing nothing, has had no worthy successor in his ingenious art; and there is now as much dullness in finding fault with the thing as in the thing itself. The premier's plea had best be admitted, therefore, that the House of Commons has really been very busy for the last six months, and has done a better stroke of work than any other legislative assembly going. But granting this; conceding also Mr. Bright's illustration, that the two hundred really working members have worked harder during the summer than any equal number of manual labourers in any parish of the land; and not questioning in any manner the return obtained by Sir Benjamin Hall, making it manifest that a thousand and

fifty-two hours have been consumed in a hundred and fifty-three sittings, on an average of ten hours and a half every day for four days of the week, and that at least a hundred and eleven bills have been passed into law, out of the two hundred carried through a first reading; still the question is to be settled of the value of the work done, and this unhappily is quite independent of the number of bills enacted or the hours consumed. The vice of too much legislation is the unavoidable result of careless legislation. That bills "No. 1," "No. 2," and "No. 3," should indicate the blunders of a session discovered in time for remedy, would import little; but it matters much more that each successive session should supply a supplement of correction to the blunders of its predecessor so large, that the statute book is loaded past the limit of endurance, the efficacy of every kind of legislation obstructed, and the future administration of our laws rendered more and more confused. Judged, however, simply by its predecessors, the session has been of average utility. The Woods and Forests are still mismanaged, the Window Tax unrepealed, the Jew disqualified, needless Oaths insisted upon, Savings Banks unprotected, the Law of Settlement unsettled, Railway Audits mismanaged, the English Franchise not extended, the Stamp Acts little better than they were, Ceylon still a mystery, the Ionians unredressed, Chancery not reformed, Smithfield not abolished, and the people unprovided with Education; though the new Duke of Cambridge has been provided with twelve thousand a year, and the young Prince of Wales has got five thousand pounds for stables nine years before he wants them. But these are not worse than the average no-doings and misdoings of a session; whereas there is unusual merit in the Extramural Interments Bill, in the Bill for Australian Self-government, in the principle of the yet imperfect Bill for extending County Court Jurisdiction, in the intention of the somewhat crippled Bill for a reconstruction of the Ecclesiastical Commission, in the Bill for correction of scandalous Church Abuses in Manchester, in the Brick Duties, Charitable Trusts, and Mercantile Marine Bills, in the discomfiture of the Sabbatarians as to Sunday trading and Sunday letters, in the greater facilities given for the establishment of popular Museums and Libraries, and in the issue of the Royal Commission for taking evidence as to the state of the Universities.

The failures of the session most to be deplored are in the still hapless direction of Ireland. The Bill for the Elective Franchise has indeed been passed, by the exact compromise anticipated in our last Narrative, but so far maimed in a very vital member; and though six desperate attempts in the Lords to strengthen the land against the peasant, in so many bills introduced by Irish landlords, have been defeated in the lower house, yet not the least advance to a better system has been made in the all-important direction of landlord and tenant; while the working of the Encumbered Estates Bill is still hampered by the delay of the Security for Advances Bill, and the power and authority of the Lord Lieutenant has received a serious check in the premature disturbance and unsettlement of the question of the Irish Viceroyalty. Nor while these mistakes of Parliament are recounted, does any set-off appear in the condition of the country itself, or in the policy of agitation there. There seems no apprehension of a less than average harvest; but the most dreadful evictions continue, as well as the savage murders they occasion; and though it is impossible to doubt the importance of a movement which enlists the resolute Presbyterian of the north in a co-operative league with the ardent Catholic of the south, it is to be said of what has hitherto transpired of the Dublin conference on the subject of Tenant Right, that a series of more manifestly impracticable propositions could hardly have been looked for out of Bedlam. Nor is this the only Irish conference from which evil is just now to be apprehended. A Catholic Synod is assembled (while we write) in the Tipperary market-town of Thurles, not simply for the purpose of reviving gorgeous Catholic ceremonies unwitnessed in these islands for centuries, but with the more grave intention of restoring stricter monastic observances, of reimposing canonical practices and saints'-day observances, of forbidding marriages between Protestant and Catholic, of separating the two persuasions in burial and fast as well as in festival and marriage, and finally of pouring out the vials of Papal wrath on the Government colleges lately built and endowed in the hope of educating Catholic and Protestant together. Let not the reader smile as he reads this, and dismiss it as an amusing piece of insolence. A glance at what the last month has elsewhere brought forth will not be inappropriate here, and will enable him the better to understand what is now proceeding in Ireland.

In truth, by far the most remarkable feature of the time, and that which, sooner or later, will lead to the most decisive results, is the unblushing revival, abroad and at home, of the most insolent claims of the Roman Catholic Church. While political parties on the continent have been tearing each other to pieces, dominant priests have been quietly repiecing pretensions shattered even centuries ago; and now that the laymen are exhausted with their struggle, the churchmen are carrying off the spoils. The Jesuits have again got admission to the schools in France; the Prussian priests, not long ago, had the insolence to refuse the oath to the constitution; advantage has been taken of the helplessness of Austria to obtain such safe guarantee for popish domination as the right to punish priests, to impose ecclesiastical deprivations, to receive the dictates of the Pope, and to compel the observance of Catholic saints' days, independently of the civil power; and a quarrel now rages in Piedmont wherein the whole question is stirred to its foundations.

In that kingdom, till within a few months, exclusive clerical jurisdictions existed, irresponsible of the civil tribunals; but one of the first acts of the new king, and his new representative chamber, was to abolish this injustice, and make all Piedmontese without exception subject to the regular law. Upon this the Archbishop of Turin, Cardinal Franzoni, refused obedience; was imprisoned for fourteen days; and since his release has vented denunciations against the civil power from every Sardinian pulpit, in the shape of appeals to Austria, and invocations of Rome. In the midst of these the minister Santa Rosa, most obnoxious for his support of civil rights against ecclesiastical privilege, was seized the other day with mortal illness; when Franzoni forbad the clergy of his parish to administer the dying rites without previous confession of penitence for his acts as a minister, and Santa Rosa, declaring with his dying breath that he knew how to reconcile his duty to his country with his duty to his God, died unshriven; whereupon, by the same interdict of Franzoni, the rites of burial were refused, and then the people, suddenly awaking to the monstrous tyranny, rose in a mass against the recusant convent, compelled one priest to perform the burial offices, drove out the rest, and made the show of popular wrath so formidable that Monsignor Franzoni was next day under escort to a distant fortress, and his too obedient monks under sentence of banishment from Turin. Then came, at that very instant, the answers of Austria and Rome to Monsignor's original appeal; Austria demanding prompt banishment of a moderate newspaper editor opposed to Franzoni, and Rome declaring broadly that no Catholic state has a right to alter its domestic institutions, so far as education or worship is concerned, without previous assent from the Holy See!

In other words, this is precisely the claim now set up by Irish Franzonis against what they call Peel's Godless Colleges; and it is the claim which will have to be conclusively settled before the world is much older. That all civil restrictions must be vexatious to a church which ere this has placed kingdoms under interdict, absolved peoples from their allegiance, and hurled kings from their thrones, is, of course, quite manifest; and it is deserving of remark that under whatever form the demands of this church are advanced, they are always substantially the same. What is now rehearsing in the Vatican at Rome, is also under rehearsal in the village of Thurles, in Ireland; and what Catholicism can, in the one case, openly impose as a right, she is taking as effectual means, in the other, of secretly obtaining as a favour. She has tyrannised over the world; she has been the tool of tyrants, when herself without strength for the vile office; and now, allowing no other worship than her own within the walls of the city where she sits supreme, she is clamouring everywhere else for freedom from all restrictions as opposed to the spirit of the age. But the most liberal statesmen will have to awaken to the truth that the rights of such a church are incompatible with the equal rights of every other; that her organisation is such as to give her instant predominance, where equal privileges are accorded; that even in such apparently trivial concessions as the titular dignities and dresses of her priests, a mistake has been committed; and that the existence of an assumption now prevailing, that every Catholic in Ireland must submit to this Thurles Episcopal Synod, radiant though it be in mitres dazzling with precious stones, in copes of embroidered crimson, in soutanes of purple, in crosses, croziers, and robes of gold, is a defiance to the Settlement of these realms in 1688 too impudent to be tolerated much longer. It is clear, at the same time, that the colleges raised at so much cost and capable of such inappreciable blessings, will have to sink meanwhile under the very weakness of their supporters, unless means be found to strengthen the independent lay element in the Roman Catholic population of Ireland. The mere approach of the Synod armed with powers against the education of the people, has been already signalised by a cowardly submission of the authorities to whom that charge is entrusted. The professor of modern languages in the College at Cork having published a book on Christian Civilisation in no respect connected with his teaching, and this book (a very innocent one, a sort of supplement to Guizot, embodying the religious eclecticism of that statesman, very reverent in its tone, and containing even a formal protest against all teaching founded on infidelity) having been denounced by the bigots of the Roman Catholic press as deliberately adverse to religion, and dangerous to the faith and morals of the Roman Catholic pupils, M. de Vericour has been suspended by the Board without a hearing, and a recommendation for his dismissal forwarded to Lord Clarendon. Lord Clarendon, it is to be hoped, will know how to deal with it.

Returning to England, matters involving doubt and difficulty are not left behind. A dispute between employers and employed which has the effect of throwing one of the greatest lines of railway communication into a dangerous, if not impassable state, concerns the public too nearly not to excite much public anxiety; and, without affecting to pronounce decisively on the differences which have led to the resignation of nearly two hundred drivers and firemen on the Eastern Counties Railway, it seems manifest that the men, whose efficiency in their special duties is admitted both by the superintendent at issue with them (who had been in office three weeks) and the superintendent he replaced (who had been in office four years), cannot be held justly responsible for the general want of discipline which the system of the new superintendent seems to have been meant to correct, and which could hardly, after existing unchecked for so many years, be checked without unreasonable harshness in as many weeks. Too much was suddenly imposed upon the men, who in turn as quickly demanded too much; and since mutual concession can alone conclude such a dispute with fairness, it will become the Company to remember that for any ill effects resulting from laxity of discipline they are themselves directly responsible, in the first degree. In connection with such strikes, by the bye, a statement worthy of mention appeared the other day in a report on the Mining Districts, to the effect that the famous strike of the colliers six years ago involved a loss to the owners of two hundred thousand pounds, and to the pitmen of three hundred thousand pounds in wages alone.

Another report, out of the many lately presented to both Houses, will justify mention here, for its sensible rebuke to certain wild and selfish Protectionist schemes of which a good deal was heard some months ago, in connection with the alleged pressure of "local taxation." The Lords' Committee on parochial assessments have reported that the present system is susceptible of material improvement; but that, in their judgment, stock in trade should still be exempted from the rate, and the general maintenance of the poor should not be provided for out of the consolidated fund; nor do they feel justified in recommending any general system of union rating, or any plan for the assessment of personal property in aid of real property. In other words, they don't think Mr. Disraeli a conjurer, or take flight with Mr. Christopher into the cloudy regions of farmer's finance; but content themselves with a few practical, intelligent, and desirable suggestions for improving the present irregular assessments, for repealing certain awkward technicalities, and for reducing the inordinate amounts at which railways are assessed. This is a great slap in the face to the Protectionists; who have in other respects also suffered sorely of late, and were fain to let the session expire without a sign. They cannot even hope that a bad harvest should make opportunity for them now; for though prospects in this respect have unfortunately clouded during the last three weeks, and a somewhat poor average of corn is to be feared, yet no unhealthy tampering with the markets is observable, nor is the winter contemplated with any painful anxiety. The repeal of the laws limiting our supply of food to this island has effectually cured us of such fears and dangers; and John Bull now not only knows to what extent he has a reliance against unavoidable chances of the seasons, but with what reasonable arguments he can abate the pressure of importunate creditors. Others of his family, it is to be regretted, get into the Bankruptcy Court with apparently less ability to get out of it; and a report appearing not many days since excited not a little apprehension, from points of startling resemblance to the head of the family himself.

The name was also John Bull; and Mr. Bull appeared in the Bankruptcy Court, not very creditably we regret to say. He was said to have a vast number of sharking relations; and having been accused of playing into their hands too much, his certificate is adjourned. He tried to throw all his misfortunes on the fact that a certain firm "had had a sort of millstone or national debt fixed round his neck for a very long period," but his statements as to this did not seem to obtain unlimited credence; and the counsel against him, charging him with unaccountable and improper delays during the last two years, pointedly remarked that "the year 1848 would certainly have been the proper time for Mr. Bull to have come to that court." This very

obstinacy, however, may yet be the means of redeeming Mr. B.; for certainly the old rival of his family, M. Jean Crapaud of Paris, who went much too easily into bankruptcy that year, would have come off better by holding up his head a little longer. So Mr. Bull is not yet to be despaired of; and such other social illustrations of the condition of his friends and connections in various parts of the country as other law cases of the month supply, must not be too exclusively interpreted to the general disadvantage of his family. They are often only isolated cases; though it is right not the less to fix attention on the special injury involved, and demanding special redress.

Thus in Scotland, or under the interpretation of Scotch law by our highest English tribunal, it would appear that a man who gets possession of his wife as part of a pecuniary transaction with her father, may afterwards count upon the law's co-operation in sordidly completing what has been thus sordidly begun. The law will suffer him, without a reason assigned against the unhappy wife, to cease holding intercourse of any kind with her, three months after the marriage; will countenance his refusing to speak or sit with her, living in the same house; will view with the utmost unconcern, his treating her with the extremes of insolence and contempt before her servants; will sanction his cruel interdict against her either receiving visits, or paying them; and will allow him, in temporary absences from home, even to leave her without necessary means of existence;—and then, when this wretched woman, whose "good and kind disposition" her tormenter freely confesses, no longer able to bear the burden of a life of such unutterable misery, returns to her father's house and implores for separation and alimony, which the Scotch judges pronounce her entitled to, the English Law from its higher seat proclaims, that, inasmuch as direct personal violence is not alleged, and adultery has not been committed, the wife has no remedy whatever, nor even a title to the costs of her application; and somewhat jocosely the law adds, through the mouth of its exponent Lord Brougham, that "it might as well be said the husband ought to pay for any other luxury which his wife, after separation, might think proper to indulge in, as well as the luxury of a lawsuit." Their lordships present laughed, and it is to be hoped that poor Mrs. Patterson may derive some little comfort from the joke. Nor is it perhaps less desirable that, in the other cases of the month throwing light upon the marriage laws, a joke should if possible be made of them, seeing that they certainly fail of any graver sources of satisfaction.

There is the case of a woman who had married again after her first husband had many years deserted her, prosecuted by her worthless second husband to rid himself of the children she had borne him, dragged from her bed to the dock, exciting the sympathies of every one in court, and getting off with seven days' imprisonment. There is another case of a moustachioed fine gentleman who squandered the fortune of a young wife and left her penniless, to marry another fortune with a middle-aged lady attached to it, and who had not the additional good fortune to excite any sympathy; but who nevertheless escaped transportation (perhaps because of his moustachios), and is sent to Bridewell for twelve months. There is a young Donald Macdonald of one of the islands of the Hebrides, who carries off his young Jessie by main force from her own bed-room, in spite of an obstinate father who had provided and set his heart on a quite other son-in-law, notwithstanding a meddlesome uncle who darted out of sleep and stood shivering in his nightclothes at the youth's Lochinvar-like audacity, and in defiance of a lidless-eyed dragon of an aunt keeping guard in the very bed of the maiden; who is nevertheless triumphantly acquitted even of an attempt at wrong doing, and carried home in a popular triumph. There is a simple German who tries as hard to get free from a young wife as the Highlander to get fastened to one, but though he has a case that should have entitled him to easy redress, the magistrate can only refer him to the Consistorial Court with a polite hope that he has the means to go there, and so send him mystified away. Meanwhile a somewhat similar case, the sexes only being reversed, had been taken in charge by Lord Brougham before the House of Lords; and, for the first time in that assembly, an incompleted marriage has been dissolved on the petition of the wife, and proof that the husband had contracted a second marriage abroad; which certainly seems the strangest contrast possible, in point of "luxury" as of every thing else, to the result in the unhappy case of Patterson. But let us not conclude these notices of legal history without approval of the legal judgment delivered a few days afterwards in Norris and Cottle, also by Lord Brougham, and conclusively settling a question which has cost more in anxious litigation than any other in modern time, that of the non-liability of provisional committee-men.

At last a plan of sewage is about to be tried on a tolerably extensive scale, and at a cost of a quarter of a million sterling. Up to the point of what is to be done with the sewage when collected and drawn off, there seems little reason to question the feasibility or efficacy of this plan; but the doubtful point is an all-important one, for the notion of discharging the sewage at Woolwich must have been formed in ignorance of the tide. A dead dog launched at Woolwich would never get to sea. A fallacy is founded on the fact that the ebb-tide at any given spot runs more than six hours; but things carried down by the ebb, meet the flood so as to bring it within the six hours; and things floated up by the flood will have a tide of more than six hours, seven or even eight with an easterly wind. This is a danger which will have to be guarded against when the scheme is so far completed.

With indication of a danger of another kind, as imminent to the comforts and lives of her Majesty's lieges, our month's summary may becompleted. The wreck of an iron steamer full of holiday makers off Southport, on her way to the Menai and Tubular bridges, has created little sensation because only two lives were lost; but it was something not far short of a miracle that more than fifty lives were not sacrificed; and the case is another flagrant example of the outrageous neglect of the surveyors of steamboats, which the result of the coroner's inquest at Preston makes it the more necessary not to overlook. At that singular inquiry no one seems to have been examined that was not in some way responsible for the mischief done; while, on the other hand, not a subpœna was sent to a single passenger; and of the many who attended to give evidence voluntarily, the worshipful "crowner" declined to examine one. It has nevertheless since transpired that the steamer was manifestly unseaworthy, that her pilot was not a licensed one, that there was no register or certificate of her having been duly inspected, that she had no life-boat, only one life-buoy instead of two, only one punt instead of four punts and boats, that her only pump was out of order, and that all her fittings were crazy and rotten! The comfortable set-off is the two lives lost instead of fifty; the accident not being "graced with decent horror" to make inquiry interesting, or worth while. In like manner, about three weeks before, an old steamer plying on the River Tamar exploded at Devonport, just as she was getting up her steam to convey an entire dissenting congregation on a day's excursion to the Morwell Rocks; and, because the dissenters did not go into the air with the boilers, the affair passed off without excitement. Only out-of-the-way people (who don't wait

for conflagrations to read acts of parliament by) seem to be at all aware, on these occasions, that owners of steamships are bound, by a recent act, to transmit to the Board of Trade yearly certificates from approved surveyors of their sufficiency and good condition; or were thus induced to take any notice of the startling fact elicited in this particular case, that the required certificate had been actually signed, with a perfect knowledge on the part of the surveyor that the machinery whose safety it guaranteed was in a notoriously unsafe condition. Unhappily the subject cannot be left without one more example, horrible enough to force inquiry, if not to compel redress. By the Bristol steamboat explosion mentioned in our last Narrative, some score of people have been killed, and another score mutilated and dismembered; so that investigation has been unavoidable; and its result shows that surveyors, under the act for the safety of steamboat travel, will not scruple to certify the soundness of boilers that are well known to be cracked, that have had their cracks stopped by "a barrow-full" of dirt suitable to the purpose, that are deposed to have had a look as if made of old iron, and not to have been "safe to trust a cat with." It is surely, then, high time for the Board of Trade to declare, either that due precautions in these matters are really unattainable, or that such an example shall be made as is likely to enforce their observance.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

On Monday the 29th of July in the House of Lords, the Royal Assent was given by Commission to a great number of Bills.

On Tuesday the 30th, the Marquis of Lansdowne moved an address in answer to her Majesty's message respecting the appropriation of *Marlborough House to the Prince of Wales*; explaining, that while it was necessary to secure that mansion as a future residence for the Prince, it would be appropriated in the meantime for the exhibition of the Vernon pictures. The address was agreed to.—On the motion of the same noble lord, a resolution was agreed to expressing the concurrence of the House in the suggestion of the Committee, recommending a reform in the *Fees of the officers of the House*.

On Thursday the 1st of August, in answer to questions from the Earl of St. Germans, respecting pay and promotion in the *Money Order department of the Post Office*, —the Marquis of Clanricarde, Postmaster-General, said that the situation of the clerks had been lately improved in regard to pay and leave of absence; and though he thought they should be still better paid, he could hold out no hope of any immediate change.

Lord Brougham, on Friday the 2nd, brought forward the subject of the *Civil List*. He contended that all savings on that head should accrue to the nation and not to the royal privy purse; as it was not the genius of the Constitution that the Sovereign should have means of a private character, but that he should be dependent on Parliament; and intimated that early next session he would make a motion relative to the amount of savings in the Civil List since 1838.—The Marquis of Lansdowne said he should have the greatest objection to such a motion. It would be the greatest evil and indecorum to be examining such details in Parliament, as much as it would be to be examining into the personal expenditure of any private gentleman.—The Duke of Wellington held that Parliament is precluded by law from such inquiries.—Lord Monteagle concurred in these opinions, and deprecated such questions and conversation in the House.—Lord Brougham rejoined with great bitterness. According to Lord Monteagle the Crown might dispense with as many officers as it pleased, and save their salaries; and yet Parliament have no alternative but to vote the gross amount of all the salaries, as if they continued to be paid as heretofore. But then it was said, that the inquiry which he suggested would be indelicate. Oh! his old Whig friends were mightily changed since they had tasted the sweets of office and basked in the smiles of the Court. Why, when he was in the House of Commons he made motions for inquiry into the revenues of the Crown for which his friends who now displayed such extreme sensitiveness voted without a word of objection.—The Marquis of Breadalbane made a short speech; at the end of which he said he considered Lord Brougham had "entitled" himself to the censure of the House and of the public. —Lord Brougham, who was talking earnestly with the Lord Chancellor, on hearing the word "censure," turned abruptly, and, pointing to the Marquis, exclaimed, "Is *he* moving a vote of censure?"—The Marquis of Breadalbane: "No: but I say you have entitled yourself to the censure of the House and the public."—Lord Brougham in very hurried accents and with vehemence —"Oh! I have no fear of this House or the public." He then ran out of the House amid much laughter. In the same evening Lord Brougham made an attack on the Attorney-General for his refusal to sign the application for an injunction against proceeding with the *Building in Hyde Park*, and concluded with a sarcasm against the House for its deference to royalty, which created some sensation. "When I lately brought forward the subject," he said, "dead silence there was within your lordships' walls—dead silence there was within the walls of the House of Commons; showing most painfully that absolute prostration of the understanding which takes place, even in the minds of the bravest, when the word 'Prince' is mentioned in this country."

On Monday the 5th, a petition presented by Lord Talbot gave rise to some conversation on the subject of *Steam Communication with Australia*, in the course of which Earl Grey said that the Government were fully sensible of the advantages of such communication; but that up to the present time objections had been raised by the East India Company to one of the proposed routes, though he hoped the time was not far distant when these objections would be removed.

On the consideration of the Commons' amendments on the *County Courts Bill*, Lord Brougham and Lord Redesdale objected to the clause which gave power to take possession of town-halls for the purpose of the County Courts. The house divided on this clause, when it was carried by 13 to 11.

The alterations made on the *Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill* by both houses, were brought under consideration by the Marquis of Lansdowne, who advised the house to accept the modification of the franchise by the Commons, and to concede the restoration of the registry clauses.—Lord Stanley advised the Peers to stand by their own amendments, and attacked the Romish priesthood in Mayo for their conduct in the late election. He moved, in particular, that the house should insist on the 15*l*. franchise. The house divided: content, present 62, proxies 53—115; non-content, present 56, proxies 70—126. Majority in favour of the 12*l*. franchise 11. Lord Stanley made some sarcastic remarks on the resort of ministers to proxies when they are outnumbered by present peers, and advised the Earl of Desart not to divide the house on the question of the Commons' registration amendment. The Marquis of Lansdowne retorted Lord Stanley's sarcasms; the Earl of Desart unwillingly withdrew his opposition to the registration clause, and the whole of the Commons' amendments were ultimately agreed to.

On Thursday the 8th, the Marquis of Lansdowne moved the adoption of the Commons' amendments on the *Ecclesiastical Commission Bill*. The Archbishop of Canterbury moved an amendment in the 13th clause, as amended by the Commons, which was negatived on a division by 37 to 22.

On Friday the 9th, the greater part of the sitting was occupied by a long and miscellaneous speech from Lord Brougham, in which he discussed the proceedings of the commissioners appointed to prepare a digest of the criminal law, the recent report of the select committee

of the Commons on official salaries, and various other topics. His speech produced no remark.

On Saturday the 10th, the *Marlborough House Bill*, and the *Duke of Cambridge's Annuity Bill* were respectively Committed.

On Monday the 12th, the *Duke of Cambridge's Annuity Bill*, and the *Mercantile Marine Bill* were read a third time and passed. On the third reading of the *Summary Jurisdiction* (Ireland) *Bill*, the Earl of LUCAN proposed a clause for including the illegal removal of growing crops among the offences to which this bill is applicable; but the clause was opposed by the Marquis of LANSDOWNE, and negatived upon a division.

The matter of the *Forged Signatures to the Petition against the Liverpool Waterworks Bill*, was again brought forward on Tuesday the 13th, by Lord MONTEAGLE, who moved resolutions declaring that Mr. C. Cream and Mr. M. A. Gage, the presenters of the petition, had been guilty of a gross breach of privilege. These resolutions having been carried unanimously, Mr. Cream and Mr. Gage were called in and asked if they had anything to say in explanation or extenuation. They both protested their innocence, and Mr. Gage said that the charge was the result of a deep laid conspiracy in Liverpool to defeat the petition. They were ordered to be imprisoned for a fortnight in Newgate.—The Earl of RODEN put a question to ministers respecting certain alleged *Persecutions of Protestant Members in Ireland.* The Marquis of LANSDOWNE ascribed the disputes alluded to by Lord Roden, to persons who, no doubt actuated by zeal, had endeavoured to give the religion they professed what was called in Scotland an "aggressive" character, and had carried religious debates into places where the majority of the inhabitants were of a different persuasion. The Irish Government uniformly discountenanced everything in the shape of annoyance or persecution for religious opinions; and instructions had been issued to the magistracy, directing them to cause the arrest of all persons offending against the law in this respect. If the noble Earl should think proper to move for extracts from the reports of the Police with the view of showing what had occurred in the particular cases referred to, and copies of the instructions issued by the Government thereupon, he would not oppose the motion. The Lord Lieutenant would continue to give his attention to the subject; but any attempt on the part of the Government to put an end to the irritation which prevailed would be abortive unless the reverend persons by whose proceedings that irritation was caused exercised forbearance and caution as regarded their language. Lord RODEN made the motion suggested, and it was agreed to.

On Wednesday the 14th, Lord CAMPBELL took occasion to express his satisfaction with the report of the commissioners on the *Postal Regulations*, and his belief that the recommendations now made would go far to remove the evils which had been so much felt. He begged leave, as one of the judges of the land, to state that the late regulations had a tendency, with respect to the administration of criminal justice, to obstruct works of necessity and mercy. While the late assizes were going forward it was often of the greatest importance that communication should be made to the judges respecting cases that were coming on for trial, and also with respect to cases that had been tried; but, in consequence of the recent regulations, all communications of that sort for twenty-four hours were entirely cut off. He and his colleague, Mr. Justice Williams, thinking that a dispensation might be granted by authority in the case of her Majesty's judges, made an application to that effect; but the Postmaster refused to make any exception, stating that he had received positive orders that no letters should be delivered to any one. He (Lord Campbell) honoured him for his strict obedience to the commands he had received. But it might have happened that in consequence of this refusal persons whose cases were coming on for trial were deprived of evidence that was material to show their innocence; and that persons who had been convicted were cut off from receiving that mercy to which they were entitled.

The *Prorogation of Parliament* by the Queen in person took place on Thursday the 15th, with the usual formalities. The ceremonial was exceedingly splendid, and attended by a numerous assemblage of peers, foreign ambassadors, peeresses, and other persons of distinction. The Speaker of the House of Commons, with a large body of members, appeared at the bar and made the customary address, giving an account of the proceedings of the house and tendering the last bill of supply; and the Queen then read the following speech:—

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"I have the satisfaction of being able to release you from the duties of a laborious session. The assiduity and care with which you have applied yourselves to the business which required your attention merit my cordial approbation. The act for the better government of my Australian colonies will, I trust, improve the condition of those rising communities. It will always be gratifying to me to be able to extend the advantages of representative institutions, which form the glory and happiness of my people, to colonies inhabited by men who are capable of exercising, with benefit to themselves, the privileges of freedom. It has afforded me great satisfaction to give my assent to the act which you have passed for the improvement of the merchant naval service of this country. It is, I trust, calculated to promote the welfare of every class connected with this essential branch of the national interest. The act for the gradual discontinuance of interments within the limits of the metropolis is in conformity with those enlightened views which have for their object the improvement of the public health. I shall watch with interest the progress of measures relating to this important subject. I have given my cordial assent to the act for the extension of the elective franchise in Ireland. I look to the most beneficial consequences from a measure which has been framed with a view to give to my people in Ireland a fair participation in the benefits of our representative system. I have observed with the greatest interest and satisfaction the measures which have been adopted with a view to the improvement of the administration of justice in various departments, and I confidently anticipate they will be productive of much public convenience and advantage.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

"The improvement of the revenue, and the large reductions which have been made in various branches of expenditure, have tended to give to our financial condition stability and security. I am happy to find that you have been enabled to relieve my subjects from some of the burdens of taxation, without impairing the sufficiency of our resources to meet the charges imposed upon them.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"I am encouraged to hope that the treaty between Germany and Denmark, which has been concluded at Berlin under my mediation, may lead, at no distant period, to the restoration of peace in the north of Europe. No endeavour shall be wanting on my part to secure the attainment of this great blessing. I continue to maintain the most friendly relations with foreign powers, and I trust that nothing may occur to disturb the general peace. I have every reason to be thankful for the loyalty and attachment of my people; and while I am studious to preserve and to improve our institutions, I rely upon the goodness of Almighty God to favour my efforts, and to guide the destinies of this nation."

Parliament was then prorogued in the usual form to the 25th of October.

On Friday, the 26th of July, in the HOUSE OF COMMONS, at the morning sitting, Baron Rothschild came forward to *Take the Oaths* as a member for the City of London as mentioned in last month's Narrative. At the evening sitting, in reply to a question from Mr. Scholefield respecting certain proceedings which had taken place with regard to *Unstamped Periodical Publications*; Mr. C. LEWIS said that though it was easy to state what in the eye of the law was a newspaper, yet there was sometimes considerable difficulty in drawing the line, especially in the case of publications which lay on the confines. There were several publications of this description; among the rest one called the *Household*

Narrative of Current Events published by Messrs. Bradbury and Evans. The Board of Stamps had come to the conclusion that that publication came under the designation of a newspaper, and a communication was made to the publishers requiring them to submit to the stamp regulations. A correspondence took place, one part of which stated, on the part of Messrs. Bradbury and Evans, their wish to have the whole question tried by a special case to be submitted by arrangement. The Commissioners had acceded to that arrangement, accepting the offer of a judicial decision, and reference was requested to the solicitor of the parties.—In committee of supply a number of sums were voted for *Army Estimates*. On the vote of 41,000*l*., half the sum required for the yeomanry corps; Mr. H. BERKLEY contended that the yeomanry were an unconstitutional, useless, and dangerous force:—they were defended by Mr. Fox MAULE and others, and the vote was affirmed by 147 to 25.

On Monday, the 29th, the adjourned debate on Baron Rothschild's claim to take his *Seat for the City of London* was resumed. A preliminary discussion took place on points of form; and a motion by Sir Charles WOOD, that Baron Rothschild having demanded to be sworn on the Old Testament, he should be called to the table and desired to state why he demanded to be sworn in that form, having been carried, Baron Rothschild was called to the table, and the questions being put to him by the Speaker, answered, "Because that is the form of swearing that I declare to be most binding on my conscience."—Another motion, by Mr. WORTLEY, that the Speaker should ask Baron Rothschild whether he was willing to take the oaths required by law to be taken by members of Parliament before admission to their seat, was negatived by 118 to 104.—The adjourned debate then proceeded; Mr. HUME moved as an amendment, that Baron Rothsehild having presented himself at the table and requested to be sworn on the Old Testament, declaring that form to be most binding on his conscience, the clerk be directed to swear him on the Old Testament accordingly.—Sir F. THESIGER objected to this course, but objected also to Sir R. Inglis' resolution, there being no necessity for a resolution in affirmation of the practice of the House. He therefore recommended that the resolution should be withdrawn, and Mr. Hume's amendment discussed as a substantive motion. The question depended upon the law of the land, and according to existing statutes, a member could not be sworn upon the Old Testament. In courts of justice, indeed, Jews were sworn as witnesses and jurymen, but there was no form prescribed for such judicial oaths. The question now related, not to judicial but to promissory oaths; and the three oaths in question were required by a series of acts of Parliament to be taken in the Christian form. The early acts declare that the oaths of allegiance and supremacy are to be made on the Holy Evangelists, and the later acts imply the continuance of the form of administration; while the act of George I., which sets forth the oaths as they are now taken, requires the oath of abjuration to be taken on the true faith of a Christian. Great stress had been laid on the Act 1 and 2 Vict., but it was merely a declaratory act to affirm the law as it no doubt existed. Baron Rothschild, as a Jew, could not take the oath of abjuration as it stood, and the house had no authority to alter it.—Lord John RUSSELL agreed with Sir F. Thesiger that the question should be treated judicially. He believed that the ancient practice of the legislature did not prescribe oaths to its members, and he doubted the policy of such oaths. Baron Rothschild had offered to take the oath in an unusual way, and there was no precedent for refusal; he found from the authority of Lord Hardwicke that a Jew who had been sworn on the Holy Evangelists might be indicted for perjury, the Old Testament being the Evangelium of the Jew. Sir F. Thesiger had argued that the oaths had always been taken in the Christian form, and that it was so by positive statute, but he had failed to make this out, and unless some statute could be pointed out the house ought not to insist on a form which excluded a gentleman duly elected. In regard to the words, "on the true faith of a Christian," in the oath of abjuration, it had been maintained that they were not of the essence of the oath; but he did not think the house had the power to dispense with those words, and he should be compelled to vote against omitting them; though he was in favour of the admission of Jews to the house, he thought that no opinion of this kind ought to induce the house to take a step which might produce serious evils. In conclusion, he was of opinion that Baron Rothschild should be allowed to be sworn on the Old Testament, but was not willing to alter the terms of the act of abjuration without the authority of an act of parliament.—After some further remarks from Sir H. Inglis and Mr. Osborne the debate was adjourned till the evening: it was then resumed, the speakers being Mr. Anstey and Mr. Page Wood in favour of Baron Rothschild's claim, and Mr. Stuart Wortley against it. —The sense of the house was then taken; first, on the point whether the words of Sir R. Inglis' motion should stand part of the question put. It was resolved, without division, that they should not. The amendment moved by Mr. Hume was then carried by 113 to 59; and it was ordered that the clerk should swear in Baron Rothschild on the Old Testament, the ceremony being deferred till the following day.—

The house, in committee, considered the proposed appropriation of *Marlborough House for the Prince of Wales*, during the joint lives of the Queen and himself, and the provision of a coach-house and stables out of the crown land' revenues.—Mr. HUME objected that the arrangement was premature, the Prince being only nine years old.—Lord John RUSSELL reminded the house of the arrangement respecting the Vernon pictures, and said it was thought right to make the appropriation now, lest it should afterwards be thought that the pictures had so long occupied the house that it would be wrong to give it to the Prince without having settled it before.—Lord SEYMOUR explained that by the arrangement as to the stables the crown revenues would be benefited 800*l*. a year. After further remarks, in opposition to the measure, from Mr. Hume, Mr. Henley, and Alderman Sidney, it was carried by 68 to 46.—In committee of supply on the vote of 731,206*l*., for *Half-pay and Retirement to Officers of the Navy and Marines*, Mr. HUME moved that it should be reduced by 3000*l*., the select committee having stated that there are 150 admirals, and having recommended that they should be reduced to 100 by promotion of only one as often as three vacancies occur—Mr. Cobden, Sir James Graham, and Mr. Henley supported the amendment, which was opposed by Sir F. Baring and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and negatived by 128 to 72.

At noon on Tuesday the 30th, Baron Rothschild presented himself at the table, and a copy of the Old Testament was handed him by the clerk. He audibly repeated, after the clerk, the oaths of allegiance and supremacy; and, at the close of each, put on his hat, kissed the book, and said "So help me God." In the oath of abjuration; he repeated the words till the phrase "on the true faith of a Christian," when he said "I omit these words as not binding on my conscience," and concluded as before. The Speaker then desired him to withdraw. There were cries of "no, no," and "seat, seat!" but he withdrew.—Mr. HUME rose to order; the Member for London, he said, had taken the oaths in accordance with the vote of the preceding day, and he moved that he should now take his seat.—The SPEAKER said that the honourable member had been directed to withdraw, because he had not taken the last words of the oath prescribed by act of parliament. Sir F. THESIGER moved for a new writ, and Sir R. Inglis seconded the motion.—Mr. Page WOOD contended that the oaths having been duly taken there was no vacancy. Even if Baron Rothschild had not taken the abjuration oath he had not forfeited his seat, though he might by act of parliament be liable in certain penalties. But that oath had been taken; the words omitted were not a portion of the oath itself—not words of abjuration but of adjuration. He argued these points at great length, and moved that the seat of Baron Rothschild, as one of the members for London, was full.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he had always voted for the admission of Jews into the House, but he could not as a Judge decide that Baron Rothschild had taken the oath of abjuration. Once admit the principle that this or that portion of a legislative direction might be dispensed with to meet

the particular notions of individuals, and there would be an end of the force of law. Baron Rothschild had objected to certain words in this particular oath, his reason being that he did not deem them binding on his conscience; admit his objection, and who could say what other portion of the oath somebody else might not object to on the same ground.—Mr. HUME contended that Baron Rothschild, having taken the oaths in the required way, was entitled to his seat —Sir G. GREY was prepared to vote against the amendment which declared the seat full, but could not say that Baron Rothschild had refused to take the oath.—Sir F. THESIGER considered the omission of the words amounted to a refusal to take a substantial part of the oath; but he desired to know what was the Baron's intention.—Mr P. WOOD, on the part of the Baron, said that he distinctly refused to use the words in question.—Mr. ROEBUCK cautioned the House against supposing that the Baron's refusal went beyond pronouncing the words in question. He contended that the oath had been properly taken. On a division, Mr. Page Wood's amendment was negatived by 221 to 117. A desultory conversation then took place, and Lord John RUSSELL moved the adjournment of the debate till 12 o'clock on Thursday; adding, "the Attorney-General will then propose such a resolution as he and I shall think most conducive to the dignity and usages of the house."—Sir F. THESIGER expressed his willingness to withdraw his motion or to allow it to be negatived without a division, which was done, and the house adjourned.

At the evening sitting, Lord John RUSSELL brought before the house the Lords' amendments on the *Parliamentary Voters'* (Ireland) *Bill*, and explained his views respecting them. The Lords had raised the franchise from 8*l.* to 15*l.*, and he should fix it at 12*l.* The 15*l.* rating would place the franchise in the hands of only 8 per cent. of the male population of Ireland, whereas the 12*l.* rating would confer it on 10 per cent. He adverted to the Mayo election, just over, at which it appeared that, after a severe struggle, the whole number of electors who could be brought to the poll for one of the most important counties of Ireland was under 250; and this he adduced as an instance of the reduced state of the Irish electoral body, and as a proof of the necessity of such a measure as this. He would assent to the Lords' omission of clause 2, and would dissent from their lordships' omission of clauses 18, 19, and 21. He strongly objected to the Lords' insertion of words requiring the electors to demand to be placed on the register; indeed, he considered this a far more important alteration than that of the amount of rating. After some observations by Mr. French, Sir W. Somerville, Mr. Moore, and Colonel Rawdon, Mr. BRIGHT strongly objected to this concession on the part of government. Lord John Russell (he said) should be cautious how he allowed small majorities in another place to override the majorities of the house of Commons and the ministers of the Crown on this question; he ought to have stood by his bill as he had brought it in if he was satisfied it was right, instead of recurring to his perpetual but unavailing attempt to make the two houses work together—a thing which, under the present constitution, they neither would nor could.—Lord John RUSSELL censured Mr. Bright for advancing doctrines tending to destroy the balanced constitution of the country. He defended the aristocracy from the charge of being an exclusive body, and justified his conduct in making a compromise with the house of Lords by means of a plan which would add 170,000 to the electoral population. After a discussion, in which Lord John Russell's compromise was supported by Mr. M. O'Connell and Sir G. Grey, and opposed by Mr. Shiel and Mr. Disraeli (who announced his intention to support the alterations introduced by the House of Lords) the house divided on the franchise clause, carrying the 12*l.* rating by 213 to 91. A second division took place on the question of the restoration of the compulsory registration, when such registration was carried by 179 to 109. The remaining amendments were agreed to.

On Wednesday the 31st of July, Mr. Alcock's motion for going into committee on the *Sunday Trading Prevention Bill* was met by an amendment, moved by Mr. ANSTEY, that the bill should be committed that day three months.—Sir G. GREY desired that the bill should be proceeded with, but it was so strongly opposed that Mr. Alcock proposed to withdraw the bill. This arrangement was not agreed to, and Mr. Anstey's amendment was carried without a division; the bill being thus thrown out.—The adjourned debate on the *Landlord and Tenant* (Ireland) *Bill* was resumed, and enlivened by a few personalities among the Irish members.—Sir H. W. BARRON accused Mr. Reynolds of uttering what was false; the SPEAKER intimated that such language was not in accordance with English Parliamentary usage; Sir W. H. Barron retracted, and Mr. Reynolds said that it was not safe to use such language in that place, as the Speaker was sure to interfere. The bill was opposed by Mr. R. M. FOX as worse than that of the government; and by Sir G. GREY as conferring advantages on tenants without giving corresponding ones to landlords. The debate was again adjourned.

The Lords' amendment on the *Australian Colonies Bill* were taken into consideration on Thursday, the 1st of August. In the outset Mr. SCOTT inquired whether the government had received from New South Wales a memorial in favour of a double chamber which had appeared in a Colonial newspaper.—Mr. HAWES answered in the negative.—Lord John RUSSELL recapitulated the Lords' amendments and asked the house to agree to them. As to the omission of the confederation clauses, the defects in them the more easily induced ministers to abandon them, as at all events they were not expected to come into operation for some years. Whether the provision allowing votes to the wealthy class of squatters would give satisfaction to the colonists, he certainly was not able to say. The restriction put on the legislative councils, from constituting a single chamber consisting of wholly elective members, he the more readily agreed to, as if such alteration had been attempted by the legislative councils he should have hesitated in advising the crown to assent to it.—Mr. GLADSTONE thought the bill a very unsatisfactory measure. Its great defect arose from the amendment of the Lords which deprived the legislative council of New South Wales of the power to alter its own constitution, and thereby adjusting the balance of power between the crown and the colonists. He protested against a measure which while it professed to give free institutions maintained the control of the crown over the legislation of the colonies, and introduced into that legislation uncertainty and uneasiness.—Mr. ROEBUCK also protested against the measure, and said his only hope was, that when the bill arrived in the colony it would create such discontent, that parliament would be obliged to reconsider the subject. The amendments were then agreed to.—Mr. F. O'CONNOR asked the Secretary for the Treasury whether it was true that a person named Somerville, whom Mr. O'Connor described as having been dismissed from the army, had received any remuneration out of the public money for attending to give evidence in reference to the *National Land Company*.—Mr. HAYTER said that Mr. Somerville had not been dismissed from the army, but was at least as respectable a person as Mr. O'Connor. He had offered certain information connected with the inquiry, which exhibited Mr. O'Connor's character in a light which he (Mr. Hayter) should not take upon himself to describe; but Mr. Somerville had not been paid out of the public money for his loss of time, but out of his (Mr. Hayter's) own pocket.—Mr. HUME bore testimony to the character of Mr. Somerville, and the matter dropped. In answer to a question from Mr. Hume, Lord PALMERSTON explained the nature of the *British Claims on Tuscany* for injuries sustained by British subjects after the revolt of Leghorn, and the occupation of that city by an Austrian corps acting as auxiliaries to the Grand Duke. After all resistance was over, that corps plundered a number of houses, and among them, houses belonging to British residents and conspicuously marked as such by the British Consul. The amount claimed was 1530*l.*, and it was hoped that Tuscany would see the justice of the demand.

On Friday the 2nd, on the motion for the second reading of the *Crime and Outrage Act Continuance* (Ireland) *Bill*, Mr. J. O'CONNELL said that as it

involved pains and penalties, it ought to have originated in the Commons, and not in the Lords.—The Speaker pronounced the objection well founded; the bill was accordingly laid aside, and Lord John Russell moved for leave to bring in a new one, stating that he would be quite satisfied if the house would consent to its re-enactment from the 31st of December next to the end of the next session of parliament, instead of four years, as originally proposed.—Mr. Crawford moved an amendment in opposition to the re-introduction of the bill. After some observations from Mr. Reynolds and others, the debate was adjourned.—In answer to an inquiry, Sir G. Grey informed the house that the *Report of the Committee on Smithfield Market* had been sent to the Corporation of London, who had, in reply, refused to adopt its recommendations, as being against the rights and privileges of the Corporation.—The house then went into *Committee of Supply*. On the vote of 1650*l.* for the repairs of Holyrood Palace, to which Mr. Hume objected, Lord J. Russell explained that Her Majesty expressed a wish to occupy the sleeping apartments on her visit to Edinburgh, and the vote was then agreed to.—On the vote of 8900*l.* for experiments and alterations in the new House of Commons, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in answer to Sir D. Norreys, said it was not intended to pull down the old House of Commons.—Mr. Hume stigmatised the whole affair as a disgrace to the parties concerned in the erection of the new Houses of Parliament, and more especially the architect; and Mr. Stafford complained of the difficulty of ascertaining who was to blame, and on whom the responsibility rested. The new house was a disgraceful failure.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer observed, that the money now required would be sufficient to make the house suitable. After some further discussion the vote was agreed to.—Considerable time was devoted to discussion of the vote of 30,000*l.* proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as a "charitable donation" to the depositors of the Cuffe Street Savings' Bank, Dublin, rendered necessary through the "gross neglect, if not worse," of the trustees of that bank, and the lax supervision of government.—Sir James Graham opposed any vote of public money as a charity, and in the absence of all information urged its postponement till next session.—He was defeated by 118 to 39, and the vote was agreed to.

At the morning sitting on Monday the 5th, the Attorney-General moved the resolutions which he had prepared in the *Case of Baron Rothschild*. They were, first, that Baron Rothschild is not entitled to sit and vote in that house until he shall take the oath of abjuration in the form appointed by law; and secondly, that the house will next session take into consideration the form of that oath, with a view to relieve Her Majesty's subjects professing the Jewish religion. The Attorney-General said that having considered the subject more carefully than he had done when he formerly spoke, he had come to the conclusion that Baron Rothschild's seat was not vacant in consequence of his refusing to take the oath; it would be void if he should presume to vote, but not till then. The consequence was, that by an idle form of oath abjuring allegiance to a family now extinct, Baron Rothschild's constituents were deprived of the benefit of his services in parliament. It was incumbent on the house to pledge themselves at the earliest opportunity next session to pass a bill for altering a law so monstrous and absurd. The course he proposed was beneficial to Baron Rothschild himself; for, if he were admitted by the authority of that house alone, it would create difficulties in the other house, and he believed that no lawyer earning 500*l.* a-year would advise Baron Rothschild that he could take his seat without incurring the serious penalties imposed by the act of the 1st of George I. He concluded by expressing his high sense of the propriety, firmness, and moderation manifested by Baron Rothschild in every stage of the difficult and unprecedented matter.—Mr. Hume said he had no doubt as to Baron Rothschild's legal right to take his seat; but, if there were doubts, the house ought not to pre-judge the question, as the Attorney-General's resolution did, by declaring that the Baron was not entitled to sit and vote. He accordingly moved, as an amendment, "that the clerk having, as directed by the house, administered the oaths to Baron de Rothschild upon the Old Testament, being the form he declared most binding upon his conscience, and the Baron having so sworn to the oath of abjuration, with the omission of the words 'upon the true faith of a Christian,' and doubts having arisen as to the legal effect of his so taking the oath, it is expedient next session that a law should be introduced to declare the law, and that the house will then take into consideration the subject of the oaths with reference to the changes since their enactment."—Mr. Anstey supported this amendment.—Mr. Disraeli said, that as the question had hitherto been of a strictly legal character, he had hitherto refrained from joining in the debate; but the resolutions of that day departed from that limited character. He contended that the government was to blame for the present position of the house; the bill which had been brought into the house having been delayed and abandoned, instead of being sent up to the House of Lords after Baron Rothschild's re-election. As to the resolutions now before the house, deeming the first of them not extremely constitutional, and the second not extremely politic, he should vote for neither. He should leave the law as he found it, and if a change was necessary let it be made in a constitutional manner. The removal of the remaining disabilities of the Jews had received his unvarying support, and he hoped that full justice would speedily be done to the descendants of a race acknowledged to be sacred, and who professed a religion acknowledged to be divine. After some further debate in which the speakers were Sir R. Inglis, Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Wood, the Solicitor-General, Mr. Bright, and Mr. Goulburn, the house divided; when Mr. Hume's amendment was negatived by 163 to 101; the first resolution of the Attorney-General was carried by 166 to 192, and the second by 142 to 106.

At the evening sitting, in committee on the *Stamp Duties Bill*, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated some changes proposed by him in consequence of finding the increase of the revenue greater than he had expected. He proposed to reduce the duty on conveyances altogether to one-half per cent. instead of one per cent., and to postpone the commencement of the act till October. The loss on the revenue by the whole remissions would be about 500,000*l.* a-year. The bill was reported: and the *Customs Bill* and the *Marlborough House Bill* were afterwards severally reported.—On the third reading of the *Duke of Cambridge's*, &c., *Annuity Bill*, Mr. Hume moved that the Duke's annuity should be 8000*l.* instead of 12,000*l.*, which was negatived by 111 to 52.—Mr. Bright then moved that the annuity should be reduced in proportion to any accession of income which the Duke might receive from public sources.—Lord John Russell objected, on the ground that it was most inexpedient to say that, whatever services, military or otherwise, the Duke might render, he should receive no additional income—in other words, that he should not render any such services to the country. The amendment was rejected by 108 to 39, and the bill passed.

The house having gone into committee on the *Customs Bill*, Sir James Graham objected to a clause whereby it was proposed to give the Board of Customs unlimited powers of making rules and regulations in lieu of the limited powers now entrusted to it by statutes. After a discussion, the Chancellor of the Exchequer allowed the clause to be struck out of the bill, on the understanding that it should be reconsidered in the Report.

The adjourned debate on the *Crime and Outrage Act* (Ireland) *Continuance Bill* was resumed on Tuesday the 6th. The measure was opposed by Mr. Moore, Mr. Scully, Mr. M'Cullagh, Mr. R. M. Fox, Mr. P. Scrope, and Mr. Hume. Col. Rawdon, Major Blackall, Sir Denham Norreys, and Col. Chatterton, were inclined to the bill, in the confidence that Lord Clarendon would execute it discreetly. The motion for leave to bring in the bill was carried by 84 to 24; and it was brought in and read a first time.—On the order for going into committee on the *Landlord and Tenant* (Ireland No. 2) *Bill*, Mr. Bright intimated his intention to oppose it in every stage, and moved to defer the

committee for three months. A protracted discussion took place, and some motions of adjournment were made, till at length, Lord Palmerston, seeing no hope of any result that night, proposed an adjournment of the debate which was agreed to.

On Wednesday the 7th, Mr. G. A. HAMILTON moved the second reading of the *Encumbered Estates* (Ireland) *Bill*, the principal object of which was to provide that the Commissioners should sell no estate for less than fifteen years' purchase.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading that day three months, objecting both to its principle and its details. It proceeded on a misapprehension of the act of last session; assuming that the sales of estates by virtue of that act were at an under value, whereas hitherto no sale had taken place at an under value. The bill was an attempt at one-sided legislation; he regretted that such a bill had been sent down from the House of Lords, and above all that it had emanated from Irish landlords, since it afforded encouragement to proprietors to let their lands at extravagant rents in order to evade contracts and defeat their creditors.—Mr. FRENCH warmly defended the Irish landlords.—Mr. STAFFORD thought the best course was to let the act of last session work its way.—Mr. BRIGHT enumerated various bills passed by the other house this session, the main object of which was to benefit the landlords by enabling them to get rid of the occupiers and seize what they have for the landlord's rent. The present bill was to give them more power of getting rent, and to prevent the payment of their just debts. After some further discussion, Mr. Hamilton declined to press the question to a division; the amendment was agreed to, and the bill consequently is lost.

On the third reading of the *Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bill*, on Thursday the 8th, Mr. BERNAL raised a conversation on the defective state of the regulations for the *Immigration of Africans into the West India Colonies*. He observed that, at present, contracts were limited to a year; but that in the first year, from sickness, and the immigrant's not being inured to labour, there was frequently a loss to the employer; an evil that might be remedied by making the contract for three years.—Mr. HAWES said that Lord Grey had already sanctioned contracts for three years in British Guiana and Trinidad, and would, of course, be quite prepared to do so in Jamaica. The immigration of free labour from Africa had proved a failure; but this was not the case with the immigration of Coolies. Many requests had been made to renew it, and arrangements had been made to comply with those requests. Arrangements had also been made, in consequence of communications with Dr. Gutzlaff, for introducing free Chinese immigrants into Trinidad.

On the second reading of the *Crime and Outrage Act* (Ireland) *Continuance Bill*, Mr. Sharman CRAWFORD, denouncing it as an unconstitutional measure, moved the second reading that day three months. He was seconded in his opposition by Mr. Anstey, Mr. R. M. Fox, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Hume, and Mr. Roche. Sir G. Grey defended the bill, and the second reading was carried by 89 to 26.

Sir G. GREY inquired if Mr. Hamilton intended to persevere with his *Landlord and Tenant* (Ireland) *Bill* this session, intimating that the government could not agree to it even after considerable amendment. Mr. Hamilton yielded, and on the motion of Mr. Reynolds the order for second reading was discharged.

On the third reading of the *Customs Bill*, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER reproduced the clause which he had allowed on Tuesday to be provisionally struck out.—Mr. Hume objecting, the house divided, and the clause was carried by 50 to 14. The bill then passed.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER announced, with expressions of much regret, the withdrawal of the *Savings' Banks Bill*, there being no hope of being able to carry it through this session.

On Friday the 9th, the motion for going into committee on the *Crime and Outrage Act* (Ireland) *Continuance Bill* was opposed by Mr. REYNOLDS, who moved its commitment that day three months. This led to another debate on the merits of the measure; after which the house resolved to go into committee by 82 against 34.—In committee, Mr. MOORE moved, as an amendment to the first clause, that the duration of the bill be limited to one year.—Some discussion ensued, in the course of which Lord John RUSSELL said that this was a bill for the discouragement of murder, and its continuance for a somewhat longer period than a year was requisite in order to have a beneficial effect in repressing that horrible crime. On a division the amendment was negatived by 75 to 34.

The house resumed the debate on Mr. Hume's motion for a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the *proceedings of Sir Henry Ward* as governor of the Ionian Islands. The motion was supported by Lord Dudley Stuart, Mr. Bright, Colonel Thompson, and Mr. Anstey, who denounced Sir Henry Ward's conduct in strong language. He was defended by Mr. Hawes, Lord John Russell, Col. Dunne, Lord Claude Hamilton, and Sir De Lacy Evans, and the motion was negatived by 84 to 13.

Mr. MACKINNON informed the house, that five of its officers had been seriously indisposed by complaints such as usually arise from *Exhalations from Drains or Graveyards*. He asked if a stop was to be put to the escape of effluvium from the drains opened in the vicinity of the house?—Lord EBRINGTON said it was unfortunately true that *eight* of the officers of the house had been seized with diarrhœa; but that ailment was general in the metropolis, and he believed the drain had nothing to do with it. He hinted that St. Margaret's Churchyard contained the source of the evil.

On Monday the 12th, Sir B. HALL took a retrospect of the *Business of the House* during the session, founded on returns lately made in consequence of his motion to that effect. He entered into many details respecting the number and length of the sittings, the quantity of time occupied by a variety of bills which had been withdrawn or abandoned, and contrasted the amount of time and labour bestowed by the house, with the comparatively small amount of business actually done. Much of this evil he ascribed to the manner in which the government measures were conducted; and he hoped that means would be taken for remedying it. He concluded formally with a motion for further papers. Lord JOHN RUSSELL defended both the house and the government, and thought it matter of some surprise that so many important measures had been accomplished this session.—Mr. BRIGHT and Mr. STAFFORD made some remarks, and Sir B. Hall withdrew his motion.—Mr. HUME moved that the evidence taken before the *Ceylon Committee* be printed.—Mr. HAWES opposed the motion, on the ground that the proposition of printing the evidence had been rejected by the committee itself; and moved that the evidence be referred to the colonial secretary and the members of the Government.—Sir James HOGG supported the amendment, deprecating incidental remarks on Lord Torrington's conduct when that subject was not fairly before the house.—Mr. HUME, in reply, stated that the first step he should take next session would be to bring this subject again before the house; and he should persevere in carrying out his threat to direct the Attorney-General to prosecute Lord Torrington. With this understanding, he would not divide the house upon his present motion.—Mr. Hawes's amendment was therefore carried without division.

On Wednesday the 14th, Mr. LABOUCHERE stated, in answer to a question, that the *Report of the Committee on the late Post Office Regulations* had just been printed and laid on the table, but that the government could not take any measures respecting it till they had duly considered its contents.

Mr. LABOUCHERE, on the following day, Thursday the 15th, gave further information on the above subject. He explained that the report recommended that the late regulations suspending the transmission and delivery of letters on the Sunday should be repealed, and that the Post Office should revert to the transmission and delivery of letters on Sunday, with such alterations as might ensure to persons in the employ of the Post Office as much time to themselves on Sundays as should be found consistent with a due regard to the paramount interests of the public. He could not say precisely what course the Treasury would adopt, but he anticipated that the Treasury would be ready to carry the recommendations of the committee into effect.—Mr. LOCKE

expressed his gratification at this announcement, and hoped that the Treasury would act upon the report at the earliest practicable moment.—The yeoman Usher of the Black Rod having informed the house that her Majesty commanded their attendance in the House of Peers, the Speaker repaired thither accompanied by all the members present. He returned with a copy of Her Majesty's speech, which he read, and the members separated.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—July 29th. Royal assent to a number of Bills.

30th.—Address in answer to the Queen's message respecting Marlborough House.

August 2nd.—Mercantile Marine Bill read a second time.

5th.—Royal assent to a number of Bills.—Public Libraries and Museums Bill passed through Committee.

6th.—Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill, as altered by the Commons, agreed to.

8th.—Ecclesiastical Commission Bill, Commons' amendments agreed to.—Mercantile Marine (No. 2) Bill considered in Committee.

9th.—Prince of Wales' Provision Bill read a second time.

12th.—Medical Charities Bill read a second time and withdrawn.—Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Bill read a third time and passed.—Crime and Outrage (Ireland) Bill (No. 2) read a first time.—Friendly Societies Bill read a second time.—Mercantile Marine Bill, and Duke of Cambridge's Annuity Bill read a third time and passed.

13th.—Breach of privilege, Messrs. Cream and Gage committed to Newgate.—Crime and Outrage (Ireland) Bill (No 2) carried through remaining stages and passed.—Friendly Societies Bill passed through Committee.

14th.—Royal assent given to a number of public and private Bills.

15th.—Royal assent to various Bills.—Queen's speech proroguing parliament.

House of Commons.—July 26th. Baron Rothschild claimed his seat for London.—Poor Relief Bill read a third time and passed.

29th.—Baron Rothschild, oaths administered, and proceedings thereon.—Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill, Lords' amendments on the Franchise negatived by 213 to 91; on the Registry by 179 to 109.—New writ for Lambeth.

31st.—Sunday Trading Prevention Bill thrown out.

August 1.—Australian Colonies Bill, Lords' amendments agreed to.—Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Bill read a second time.

2nd.—Crime and Outrage Act (Ireland) Bill withdrawn, and new one brought in.—Committee of Supply.—Inspection of Coal Mines Bill read a second time.

5th.—Baron Rothschild, Attorney-General's resolutions carried.—Stamp Duties Bill and Customs Bill in Committee.—Duke of Cambridge's Annuity Bill read a third time and passed.—Public Health (Ireland) Bill withdrawn.—Customs Bill in Committee.

6th.—Crime and Outrage Act (Ireland) Continuance Bill read a first time.—Landlord and Tenant Bill, debate on going into Committee.

7th.—Encumbered Estates (Ireland) Bill thrown out on second reading.—Stamp Duties Bill and Marlborough House Bill read a third time and passed.—General Board of Health (No. 3) Bill read a second time.—Bill to facilitate transfer of Loans for Irish Improvements brought in by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

8th.—Crime and Outrage Acts (Ireland) Continuance Bill read a second time.—Landlord and Tenant (No. 2) Bill abandoned by Mr. Hamilton.—Administration of Criminal Justice Improvement Bill, Chief Justice Salaries Bill, and Savings' Banks Bill, withdrawn by ministers.—Customs Bill read a third time and passed.

9th.—Crime and Outrage Act (Ireland) Continuance Bill in Committee.—Ionian Islands, Mr. Hume's motion for Inquiry negatived.

12th.—Crime and Outrage (Ireland) Bill (No. 2) read a third time and passed.—Ecclesiastical Commission Bill, Lords' amendments considered and agreed to.—Copyright of Designs Act Amendment Bill read a third time and passed.—Improvement of Towns (Ireland) Bill read a second time.—Union of Liberties with Counties Bill read a third time and passed.

15th.—Report of Sunday Post Office Committee presented.—Prorogation of Parliament.

THE commissioners appointed to inquire into the *Regulations respecting Sunday Labour in the Post Office* have made a report to the Treasury, in which, after pointing out the grave inconveniences caused by the late suspension of all Sunday deliveries, they recommend, with regard to the London post-office, that the system which was in force at the time of the recent order, and has not been affected by it, should be continued; and that, with regard to the provincial post-offices, a delivery of letters on the Sunday should be resumed, subject to certain restrictions calculated to diminish the amount of Sunday labour. It is provided that there shall be only one delivery and one collection, and that the delivery be made at such a time as shall not interfere with the hours of Divine Service, especially of morning service.

A parliamentary paper has been issued, containing a statement by the commissioners for the *Sale of Encumbered Estates in Ireland*, of their proceedings under the act. It appears that they have sold more than half-a-million's worth of property, and of that sum they hope to distribute the entire in their court, with the exception of 25,000*l.*, which may be transferred to the Court of Chancery. About 100,000*l.* has been already distributed. The commissioners hope without any assistance from any other court to distribute 200,000*l.* before vacation, and 200,000*l.* more in the month of October; they add, "that there is no part of their practice which gives the public such satisfaction as the readiness with which payments are made when the rights of parties are correctly ascertained."

The sittings of the great *Tenant Right Conference* in Dublin commenced on the 6th, in the City Assembly House. The attendance of delegates from the various parts of Ireland was very numerous, including many Roman Catholic priests and Presbyterian clergymen. Dr. M'Knight, the Editor of the Banner of Ulster, was called to the chair. Resolutions were passed affirming the following general principles: "That a fair valuation of rent between landlord and tenant in Ireland is indispensable. That the tenant should not be disturbed in his possession, so long as he pays the rent fixed by the proposed law. That the tenant should have a right to sell his interest, with all its incidents, at the highest market value. That when the rent has been fixed by valuation, no rent beyond the valued rent shall be recoverable by any process of law. That cases of minors, and other exceptional cases, be considered hereafter, on any measure to be introduced into parliament. That an equitable valuation of land for rent should divide between the landlord and tenant the net profits of cultivation, in the same way as profits would be divided between the partners in any other business, when one of them is a dormant partner and the other the working capitalist who takes upon him the whole risk." At the second day's meeting, on the 7th, a long discussion took place on the principle of a compulsory valuation. The following resolutions were affirmed: "That the valuation, when once made, shall be permanent. That every seven years there may, on the demand of either landlord or tenant, be a re-adjustment of the rent, payable under the valuation, according to the rise or fall of the prices of agricultural produce." The closing meeting was held on the 8th, when it was resolved that a Tenant League should be formed, to hold its meetings in Dublin.

A great *Synod of Roman Catholic Prelates and Clergy* has assembled at Thurles, and commenced its proceedings on the 22nd, with a splendid ceremonial in the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Patrick. In the sermon preached by the right Rev. Dr. Blake, the objects of the Synod were described to be, "to hold council together for the settling of controversies, for the extirpation of abuses, for the improvement of morals and discipline, for devising and establishing whatever means can tend to the greater glory of God, the better education of the people, the peace and harmony of society, and the salvation of souls." The next general meeting was fixed for the 29th, the bishops and divines being engaged in the meantime in the discussion of the subject submitted to them, and having subdivided themselves into committees for that purpose.

The engine-drivers and firemen employed on the Eastern Counties Railway, have *Resigned in a body*; having previously held a meeting, at which it was resolved, before taking this step, to state their grievances to the directors. They complained of the conduct of Mr. Gooch, the new locomotive superintendent, as arbitrary and unjust, and demanded his dismissal. The directors refused compliance, and, on their resignation, replaced them with new hands. The matter was brought before the half yearly general meeting of shareholders on the 22nd, when Mr. Betts the chairman

made a statement justifying the conduct of Mr. Gooch, imputing to the men an intention to overbear the company's authorities by preconcerted combination, and accusing them of attempting by various devices to impede the working of the engines by the new men. The general, if not unanimous sense of the meeting, was in favour of the conduct of Mr. Gooch. Immediately after the meeting, about thirty of the late engine-drivers, who had attended it, held a meeting in the neighbourhood in order to canvass Mr. Betts's statement. They indignantly denied the charge of obstructing the working of the engines by their successors, and resolved that details properly vouched should be forwarded to Mr. Betts in support of their case.

A *Dinner* was given by the Fishmongers' Company to her Majesty's ministers on the 1st instant. The leading members of the cabinet were prevented from attending, and the principal speaker was Lord Brougham, who gave the company some old reminiscences:—"Whether it has come to pass that you are better than in former years—as good as you were in 1820—I know not; but I care a great deal. I hope you are better—I hope that you are now as I remember you in 1820. Now, I put this case to you. If you now applaud what I am going to say, you will be as in 1820; if not, you are corrupted with Court influence. I was made a Fishmonger in 1820—I glory in the reason why I was made one. Don't be ashamed of your good deeds; don't look back with shame upon the brightest period of your history; be not courtiers because your friends are in office; don't be ashamed of what you did in favour of an oppressed queen against an aggressive king and his minions of ministers. . . . . Ah, I see; you are far from having the same feeling you had in 1820. Honours corrupt manners—that is an old proverb; being in power is a dangerous thing to public virtue." The latter part of this effusion produced much laughter.

A return has been printed by order of the House of Commons, of the number of persons, male and female, tried in the United Kingdom for *Murder by Poison*, from the year 1839 to 1849, both inclusive. The number of persons so tried in England and Wales during the ten years was 154, viz., 69 males, and 85 females; the number of convictions on either charge was 66. The number of trials, male and female, in 1839, was 13, and the convictions 4; and in 1849 they were respectively 14 and 5. In Scotland the trials for murder by poison, since 1839, have been only 9, 2 males and 7 females; the convictions were 3. The trials for attempts to murder were 6, 3 males and 3 females; convictions 4. In Ireland the trials amounted to 56; 25 males and 31 females, and the convictions were 13. In 1839 there occurred only one conviction in Ireland for murder by poisoning; in 1841 there were 5 convictions against 10 persons accused. In 1849 the number of indictments was 13, 7 males and 6 females, and the convictions 3.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

WILLIAM ROSS, a youth of nineteen, was tried at the York Assizes, on the 20th of July, for the *Murder of his Wife* by poison. He had quarrelled violently with his wife's relations, and had vowed vengeance against all the family; and, on the 16th of May last, he bought five ounces of arsenic at Ashton-under-Lyne. Mrs. Ross was entered in two burial clubs: from one, a penny club, 4*l.* would be paid at her death; from the other, a club at the mill where she worked, 6*l.* 6*s.* On the 17th of May, Ross quarrelled with his wife, and was heard to say to her, "Thou 's worth more dead than quick;" On the 28th of May, the wife was taken very ill with the symptoms of poisoning, and she died on the 30th. The prisoner would not let a doctor be fetched, but said he would go himself; then he reported that the doctor was not at home, but that he had left a message for him — the fact was, Ross never went to him. He removed his wife from one room to another, and cleared away all traces of the matters he had thrown off her stomach. Immediately after her death, he sent to inquire about the burial-club money. He had talked of going to America if his wife died. When arrested, he made varying statements. A post-mortem examination showed a large quantity of arsenic in the viscera. The jury soon found a verdict of Guilty. The prisoner exclaimed, "Not guilty, my Lord! not guilty, my Lord!" The judge told him that his protestations of innocence were useless; his guilt had been but too clearly proved—"all who have heard the evidence in the case must have in their minds the conviction that yours was the hand which administered the fatal draught, and I am as much persuaded of the fact as if I had seen it with my own eyes." The prisoner paid the greatest attention to the judge, and again loudly exclaimed, with extended arms, "I am not guilty, my Lord! I am not guilty of the crime!" In consequence of circumstances which seemed to throw doubts on his guilt, petitions were presented praying for further inquiry, and a week's reprieve of execution was granted for that purpose. But the result was not favourable; and the criminal was executed at York on the 17th.

At the same Assizes, on the 26th of July, William Chadwick, a potter, was tried for the *Murder* of Samuel Tunnicliffe. The prisoner had married the grand-niece of Tunnicliffe, who was a hale old man of 70, possessed of some freehold property. The couple persuaded the old man to come and live with them. Chadwick employed a neighbouring attorney to prepare a deed of gift of the old man's property in favour of him and his wife. He bought sugar of lead, saying it was to cure his mother's bad leg, though he had no mother; he afterwards bought arsenic, and he and his wife went together into a shop and bought croton oil and linseed oil. The old man was taken ill; and a neighbour summoned to his bed-side, found him dead with a pen in his hand and the deed of gift before him. At the inquest Chadwick made a statement in which he charged his wife with the act of poisoning the old man admitting his knowledge of them. At the trial the jury found him guilty as accessory before the fact, and recommended him to mercy. The judge demanded upon what ground? The foreman said that they considered there was some conspiracy with the wife, the wife getting the poison with the husband's assistance and administering it with his knowledge. His Lordship told them that they must find him guilty of murder if they thought he advised the giving of poison. They brought in a verdict of Guilty accordingly; and the judge passed sentence of death. His execution was fixed for the 17th; but he received a reprieve during pleasure.

A distressing *Suicide* was committed on the 29th of July, at Shipston-on-Stowe, by a lady named Elizabeth Rees, who had lately opened a seminary for young ladies with excellent recommendations. On the morning of the above day, a servant, going into an out-house, discovered her hanging, and quite dead. An inquest was held on her body, when it appeared that she had lost a considerable sum of money by unfortunate railway investments; and this, with some disappointments in regard to the opening of the school, had doubtless impelled her to commit the awful act. It also appeared that her friends had, in the course of Friday or Saturday, posted a letter addressed to her and calculated to ease her mind regarding her future prospects. This letter, however, owing to the stoppage of postal communication on Sunday, did not arrive in Shipston until late on Monday. Its timely arrival might have saved her life. The jury found a verdict of Temporary Insanity.

In the House of Lords, on the 30th of July, Lord Brougham gave judgment in the case of *Paterson* v *Paterson*, appealed from the Court of Session in Scotland. It was a suit of separation *à mensâ et thoro*, at the instance of a wife against her husband. A young man named Paterson, in possession of a good estate being in difficulties, applied to a Mr. Russell for assistance, offering, at the same time, his hand to Mr. Russell's daughter. Mr. Russell lent Mr. Paterson 2000*l.*, and Mr. Paterson married the young lady. The marriage, almost from the outset, was unhappy. The husband treated his wife with coldness and neglect, making no complaint of her conduct, but blaming himself to her family for their unhappiness; attributing it "exclusively to his fixed and unconquerable depression of spirits, and consequently, to the neglect of those attentions which a wife has an undoubted right to expect from the man to whom she is united." This candid view of his own con-

duct had no effect in inducing him to amend it; on the contrary, it got worse and worse. He ceased to hold any kind of intercourse with her, never entered her apartment, and never spoke to her. He treated her in the most insolent and contemptuous manner before the servants; prevented her from visiting or being visited by any of her acquaintances or neighbours; and frequently left home for weeks together without leaving her a farthing to provide necessaries. The poor wife, secluded from society, treated, as she says, with utter want of affection, subject to harshness and cruelty from her husband, and to scorn, contempt, or pity, from her servants, found her life in Scotland insupportable, and felt herself compelled to quit her husband's house, which she did in April, 1844, little more than eight months after her marriage. It does not appear that the husband ever made the least attempt to induce her to return. In May, 1844, her friends instituted a suit in the Session Court of Scotland, praying for a decree of separation *à mensâ et thoro*, and for a suitable alimony. The judges commenting most severely on the conduct of the husband, found and decreed as follows:—"That she may have full liberty and freedom to live separately from the said Duncan Campbell Paterson, and to separate herself from him, *à mensâ et thoro*, in all time coming; also they decerned and ordained the husband to make payment to the pursuer of the sum of 300*l.* sterling yearly, or such other sum as should be found reasonable for support and aliment to her." Against the decision of the Scottish Court the husband appealed to the House of Lords. Mr. Paterson's counsel urged "that a want of sympathy between a husband and wife was not, by the law of Scotland, sufficient ground to warrant the granting a divorce *à mensâ et thoro*." It was contended on the other side, that "an excess of cruelty was proved which fully justified the whole decree." Lord Brougham, however, held that the circumstances established on the part of the wife, though extremely painful to her, did not amount to acts of cruelty sufficient to warrant a separation *à mensâ et thoro*, and therefore decided in favour of the husband, *reversing* the judgment of the Scottish Court.

At the Newcastle Assizes, on the 31st of July, Patrick Forbes was tried for the *Murder of his Wife*. He was a labourer, with a wife and four children. Both were of intemperate habits, and, when drunk, the husband had often been heard to threaten his wife's life. On the 22nd of March last, the couple got drunk together, in which state they went to bed. During the night the family, and a neighbour who was in the house, were alarmed by a cry; and the woman was found dead, murdered by her husband in a manner too shocking for description. The case being fully proved, the prisoner was convicted and sentenced to death. While the jury were deliberating, a great sensation was produced by a dispute between the judge (Mr. Justice Wightman) and some of the county justices. His Lordship, wishing to consult his colleague Justice .Cresswell, who was sitting in the other court, found that the door of communication between them was locked. This door leads into the grand jury room, which is situated between the two court-rooms. A meeting of justices was sitting in the grand jury room, and they refused to allow the door to be opened. His Lordship ordered the High Sheriff to open the door, and break it open if necessary. The door then opened, and several gentlemen entered the court through it. The foremost, who was stated to be Sir Charles Monck, addressing the judge, told him that the justices were sitting on county business in the grand jury room, and could not have the door opened; he added that the judges had not by statute any particular place assigned to them, and might be removed to a public-house if necessary. The following dialogue then took place:—His Lordship. At present, I being one of the Justices of Assize for the county of Northumberland, as well as for the town and county of Newcastle, propose to have sufficient access to this court, and I propose to have that door open. Sir C. Monck. We can't have it open. His Lordship. But I will have it open; and I will fine any one who opposes its being opened. Sir C. Monck. Then we must leave it to your lordship's discretion to fine us. We can't have it opened. His Lordship. Then I desire that that door be left open. Sir C. Monck. We can't have it, my lord—we are using it ourselves. We can't have it. The Queen's justices are using it. His Lordship. But I supersede your authority. Sir C. Monck. We can't have it—we are sitting in petty sessions. His Lordship. Then I shall order the High Sheriff to open that door. I am here on the county business under the Queen's commission. Sir. C. Monk. That room can't be made a lobby or a passage. His Lordship. Suppose I wish to consult with my brother Cresswell, as I do, on this case? Sir C. Monck. There is a way out round. (Pointing to the ordinary passages of the court, which were densely crowded.) His Lordship. Oh! round there. I cannot enter into this unseemly dispute. You will at your own peril refuse what I have requested. Sir C. Monck. We did not raise the dispute. His Lordship. Yes, you are doing so. Sir C. Monck. Well, if you choose to exercise your own authority, you must do so. His Lordship. I do so. Sir C. Monck. If you choose to break through what subordinate authority we have you must do so. His Lordship. Then, perhaps, the better way would be, instead of your raising the unseemly noise of the High Sheriff breaking open the door by my order, that you should now make all the protest you can and retire. Sir C. Monck. Oh, no; that won't do; we are using the room. His Lordship. I wish at this moment to pass through. Sir C. Monck. Specially we will permit it. His Lordship. Is the High Sheriff here? The High Sheriff here stepped forward, and preceding his lordship, immediately led the way through the disputed door, followed by his lordship. This unseemly altercation, in the middle of a trial for murder, the wretched criminal in the dock having fallen back almost insensible while his fate was depending on the deliberation of the jury, excited the strongest feeling of general disgust.

Hall's Divorce Bill was read a third time in the house of Lords on the 2nd. This case was of a peculiar character. The divorce was sought by the wife. She had been clandestinely married. Her husband left her the same day, and went abroad with another woman, with whom he cohabited for some time, and afterwards married her. Lord Brougham, in moving the third reading of the bill, said that the House of Lords had adopted the course of not granting divorces upon the petition of the wife except in cases where very peculiar circumstances existed; but that divorce was granted because of the very unusual circumstances, by which the case was distinguished—namely, that a young lady had been led into a clandestine marriage with a young man who had returned her to her home and left her on the day of the marriage; that there had been no consummation of the marriage; and that the husband had, without any further interview or any further communication with that young lady, contracted another marriage, thereby depriving his first wife of all the comforts and of all the enjoyments of domestic life which a young lady in the marriage state had a right to look for. If that husband had committed this felony upon this side of the Channel he would most undoubtedly have been tried, convicted, and punished.

The Birds, man and wife, who were some months since tried for the murder of the poor workhouse girl, Mary Anne Parsons, by cruel usage when in their service, and acquitted of that charge, were again tried at Exeter Assizes, on the 5th, for the minor offences of *Wounding* with intent to do grievous bodily harm, and of a common assault. The plea of their previous acquittal was brought forward in defence, it being contended that the present charges had been included in the indictment on the previous trial. On the other hand it was maintained, that the assaults now charged were not identical with the murderous assaults of which they had been acquitted. A verdict was given for the crown, the judge having reserved a point of law in the prisoner's favour. But he refused to admit them to bail while the decision of this point is pending.

At the Stafford assizes, the trial of a cause, Bainbrigge versus Bainbrigge, occupied the court five days, and its complicated circumstances might furnish matter for a novel. It was to try the *Validity of a Will*, alleged to have been made by an insane person under circumstances of fraud. Mr. Thomas Bainbrigge, the testator, was a gentleman of ancient family and large

estates. An early disappointment in love affected his mind and drove him into a life of seclusion. He was a man of intellect, taste, and polished manners, but eccentric in his conduct. An illicit connexion with his housekeeper brought him a daughter, to whom he became much attached: his housekeeper proved faithless, and she was banished; but the child was educated in a costly manner, and as she grew up was introduced to society, and well received, as his own daughter. At her age of thirteen, he made a will, entailing her estates on her and her issue; but at sixteen she went astray with the coachman, to her father's excessive but not unrelenting indignation. A child was born in 1803, in her father's house; received the name of Marianne, and soon secured his eccentric affections. But two years after, his daughter made a second *faux-pas*; became pregnant by Arnold, a young farmer, eloped with him, and married him: Arnold's father was one of Bainbrigge's tenants, and there was an inveterate quarrel between them on the subject of game. He made a fresh will, in which he cut off Mrs. Arnold without a shilling, and resettled all his estates on her first daughter Marianne, who was brought up under his roof. In 1815, when he lived in Derby, he had a fall from his horse, the consequence of which was that his eccentricity became almost insanity. From having been a man of elegant exterior, with a most precise as well as a sumptuous household, he became neglectful of his person even to filthiness, and his household arrangements became revolutionised. The carriage in which he drove out was covered with the dirt of fowls that roosted in it; his driver was a labourer in a smock, immediately from the farm-yard and dung-heap; he carried home the carcase of an ox on the roof of his carriage; pigeons gained access to his library, and built among costly books—"a capital place for them," said he; and a horse that offended him he tried, convicted and sentenced to transportation, but, by commutation of the punishment, kept it in solitary dark confinement seven years. His granddaughter Marianne was taught the most depraved language and obscene conduct, and encouraged by him to exhibit this in public—her notorieties giving him great delight, and eliciting the remark that she was "a chip of the old block." Nevertheless, during the height of this extravagant and almost maniacal conduct, it was proved by his brother magistrates that he was a keen and sagacious magistrate, and to all appearance, in their society, no more than an extravagantly eccentric gentleman. So matters continued till the 15th of June 1818, when an excessive indulgence in brandy-drinking, to which he was addicted, brought him to his death-bed; and Mr. Blair, his solicitor, a man of high professional station and character, was sent for to make his will. This gentleman drew a testament which gave the reversion of the estates—to the prejudice of the testator's nephew and heir-at-law, to persons whom the testator had regarded with the utmost aversion, namely—after the death of his grand-daughter Marianne and her issue to the sons of his daughter Mrs. Arnold. Marianne like her mother, had run away at sixteen, and had two children; but she and her children were dead, and the question of succession arose between the testator's heir-at-law and the family of the Arnolds in whose favour the will had been made. It was declared by some of the attesting witnesses, that the testator was never conscious from the day he took to his bed, on Monday the 15th of June, till his death on the next Saturday; and that Mr. Blair guided his hand to sign the will, when he was in a state of dying stupor. Mr. Blair himself took advantages under the will, and the testator's relations were kept from seeing the deceased during the whole of his last illness. After the death, when the will was read over, the youngest brother of the deceased, then Captain now Major-General Bainbrigge, saw the original full of blanks and pencil interlineations: when, after years of foreign service, he came home and went to Doctors' Commons, he found the original will so different a document in appearance, that he believed it to be one substituted for that which was read over to the relatives in 1818. On the other hand, respectable clerks, who were in Mr. Blair's employment when he drew the will, swore to having written the original document, and to the identity of the original with the one now in Doctors' Commons. Lord Campbell's opinion in summing up was favourable to the good faith of Mr. Blair, and the validity of the will; but the verdict of the jury was in favour of the plaintiff, the heir-at-law.

In the Arches Court on the 6th *the Rev. Mr. Gorham was formally admitted* into the Vicarage of Brampford Speke.—The society called the "Metropolitan Church Union" had prepared an address to the Archbishop of Canterbury, praying him to prevent Mr. Gorham's institution to the living, and had requested his grace to permit a deputation to wait upon him for its presentation; the Archbishop returned an answer to the effect, that as the address proposed that he should assume to himself the authority of reversing the sentence of the legitimate tribunals, and that he should deny to Mr. Gorham a right to which he is declared to be legally entitled, he (the Archbishop) could not receive the address, and must decline naming a time for its presentation.—On Sunday the 11th, Mr. Gorham was inducted into the living in the presence of a numerous congregation; and thus has terminated the celebrated *Gorham Case*. It may, however, be revived; for the Bishop of Exeter has written a letter to the church-wardens of Brampford Speke, in which, after denouncing the doctrines of Mr. Gorham, he concludes:—"You have, already, too strong reason to apprehend that your new vicar may endeavour to spread the poison of heresy among his people by denying the efficacy of the holy sacrament of baptism to baptised infants; and, therefore, I now charge you, if you ever hear such false doctrine flow from him, that you note his words accurately, and report them to me, or to the archdeacon, without delay."

At Monmouth Assizes on the 7th, two young Irishmen named Murphy and Sullivan were convicted of the *Murder* of Jane Lewis on the 3rd of April. She was a poor old woman, and was murdered on her way home from market, the ruffians having apparently mistaken her for another woman who had been receiving money there. They were apprehended near Gloucester, immediately after they had robbed an old gentleman named Meredith on the highway, and beaten him till they left him for dead. They were condemned to death, and heard their sentence unmoved.

In the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 9th, judgment was given on the application of Mr. Alaric Watts, a gentleman well known in the literary world, for a *Certificate*. A first-class certificate was granted; Mr. Commissioner Fane expressing his sense of the perfect integrity and propriety of Mr. Watts's conduct. The Commissioner quoted an interesting trait of the generosity of Sir Robert Peel from a statement made by Mr. Watts. After mentioning that Sir Robert Peel had, without any application from him, appointed his son to a place under Government, Mr. Watts added, "A few months only before his death, having been induced to make inquiries respecting me, from having been told by Mr. Christie, that my portraits of Mrs. Siddons by Sir Thomas Lawrence, and of Sir Walter Scott by Leslie (portraits well known by amateurs), were for sale, he wrote me a letter, which he despatched to me in the Queen's Bench, by the hands of his private secretary, conceived in a spirit of the most delicate generosity, offering me any pecuniary aid which might tend to alleviate the discomfort of my situation."—"I could not resist," said the Commissioner, "the pleasure of giving publicity to this additional proof of the private virtues of our great statesman, and I do so the more because I hope that the opinion so impliedly given by so great a man, in favour of Mr. Watts, may come in aid of the judgment I am now pronouncing, which is, that Mr. Watts is better entitled to a first-class certificate than any bankrupt that ever came before me."

Mr. Thomas Paull, a young man of respectable station, was tried at Wells Assizes on the 10th for *Setting Fire to a Wheat Stack*, near Ilminster. The stack belonged to his mother, and was destroyed by fire, just as the mother and her sons had quitted the occupancy of the farm. The chief witness was John Harris, a man who had been in the service of Mrs. Paull. He asserted that Thomas had spoken to him about setting fire to certain mows, as the contents were bad, with the object of at once getting money for them from an insurance

Office; after the fire, Thomas gave Harris a sovereign, and promised him more money if he did not tell anything; but a reward of 50*l.* had been offered, and Harris tried to get it by detailing his story of Thomas's guilt. In cross-examination, the witness repeated his narrative of long conversations word for word: it was evident he had got it by rote. The prisoner's counsel asked the jury whether they could believe Harris, and whether it was necessary for him to call witnesses. The jury said they did not require to hear more. Mr. Justice Coleridge observed, it was quite evident that the story must have been written by Harris himself, or by some one more wicked than himself, and then learnt off by repeated readings. No motive whatever could be assigned for the prisoner committing such an act. The jury gave a verdict of not guilty, which was received with a burst of applause.

A singular case of *Assault* was tried at the Inverness Sheriff's Court, on the 10th. Donald Macdonald, of North Uist, was charged, with several others, with violently entering the house of J. R. Macdonald, of Harris, and putting the inmates in bodily fear. The prisoner's defence was, that his object was to obtain the lady, now his wife, from whom he had been separated against their mutual wishes. It turned out that the young gentleman and Miss Jessie Macdonald were lovers, but her father had provided another match for her, and they resolved to elope together. Accordingly, the young chieftain, with a party of friends and dependants, arrived at her father's house, on the sea-shore, at midnight, in a stormy night, made their way into the house, and even into the young lady's bed-room, and carried her off in triumph, as it was proved, with her full consent and concurrence. The jury returned a verdict of acquittal, and the young couple left the court-house amid the cheers of a great concourse of people.

Two cases of *Juvenile Crime* were disposed of at the Mansion House on the 12th. The culprits were boys of about twelve years old. The one had stolen a blanket in which a sleeping infant was wrapped, and the other had stolen a leg of mutton from a butcher's stall near Duke's Place. This last crime has become very common, being committed by small children under the direction of experienced thieves. In both these cases it appeared that the boys had homes and parents to take care of them. The sitting magistrate (Alderman Gibbs) said that in such cases a prison was a very improper place to send a child to. Parents were bound by law to protect their children, and he was determined not to sanction the practice of filling the prisons with children of such tender age. He therefore ordered the boys to be well whipped and taken back to their parents, with an intimation that if they were found again in a similar condition the parents should be called to a severe account for their negligence.

Elizabeth Bubb, a woman of forty, was tried at Gloucester Assizes, on the 12th, for the *Murder* of Maria Hook, a child of four years old, by withholding from it necessary food and clothing. It was a horrid case of inhuman cruelty. Hook, a woodman, lived at Churchham, near Gloucester; two years since his wife died, leaving three children, of whom Maria was the youngest. Soon after her death, Bubb, her sister, who had two children of her own, came to keep house for Hook. Hitherto Hook's children had been healthy-looking, and had been well attended by the mother. Now a sad change occurred to them: they were neglected, ill-treated, starved. While Bubb and her children were well fed, the other children literally collected, from hunger, the crumbs that fell from the table. The little girl Maria suffered the most. Many witnesses described how she had been misused. She was covered with filth, and almost naked —looked stupified from ill usage, was afraid to cry out, and was reduced to a skeleton. The woman abused any one who interfered in behalf of the child; swore at her constantly, threatened her, and exclaimed "Damn thee, thee wilt never die, and nothing will ever kill thee!" At length the child died in convulsions, and it was clearly proved that she had literally been starved to death. Proof was given that Hook, the father, was not in want, and that his house contained an ample store of provisions at the time of his child's death. The jury found the prisoner guilty of "aggravated manslaughter," and she was sentenced to be transported for life. Richard Hook, the father, was then tried for manslaughter, in neglecting to give the child proper food, and clothing. But it appeared that the treatment of the child was much better when he was at home than when he was absent; and he was therefore acquitted.

Hannah Curtis was tried at Gloucester Assizes on the 13th, for the *Murder* of her husband, Thomas Harris, by poison. He was a hale man, but became suddenly ill of violent pains in the stomach, and died ten days afterwards. Grounds of suspicion having occurred, his body was disinterred, and a large quantity of arsenic found in his stomach and bowels. His wife had bought arsenic, ostensibly to kill cats; had told her neighbours that a gipsy had foretold that her husband would die suddenly, but that she would not be long a widow; and had married another man about three weeks after her husband's death. On the other hand, the purchase of the poison had been without concealment; it was shown that she had always treated her husband kindly. The jury after some deliberation found her guilty, and sentence of death was pronounced. She left the dock protesting her innocence. She was to have been executed on the 24th, but has received a reprieve during pleasure.

A young girl, named Amelia Snoswell, *Murdered* the child of her sister, Mrs. Cooper, an infant of eighteen months old, at Gravesend, on the 14th. The infant had been put to bed along with another child, when the girl went into the room with a knife and cut its throat. She then returned to her sister and said, "I have killed her now, and she is happy." She had always been affectionate to the child, but had lately shown symptoms of mental derangement. She was committed for trial.

William Bennison, who was committed to prison at Leith, in April last, (see "Household Narrative" for that month) on the charge of poisoning his wife, has been tried before the High Court of Justiciary and convicted of the crimes of *Bigamy and Murder*. It was a case of singular atrocity. Some years since, when resident in Ireland, he married an Irishwoman; but soon deserted her, and coming home to Scotland, married there a woman remarkable for her meek virtue and her devotion to himself: he left his second wife, returned to his first wife in Ireland, and soon after she died suddenly. He then once more returned to his second wife, and gave her the garments of his first wife as those of a deceased sister—"a sister in the Lord." He was distinguished for his gift in prayer, and at last was every evening at the prayer-meeting. Here his eye fell upon one whom he resolved to make his third wife. Six weeks after his acquaintance with this girl, his second wife died: it was proved that six weeks before her death he bought arsenic, and with that poison frequently administered he took the unfortunate woman's life. Her deathbed strikingly exemplified pious resignation and trustful attachment to her husband. With a climax of hypocrisy, immediately after her death, he exclaimed at her bedside, "Thank God, she is gone to glory! I have seen many a deathbed, but never a pleasanter one than my wife's." The wretch was found guilty on both charges. Sentence of death was passed, and he was removed protesting his innocence of the murder: but he afterwards confessed. He was executed on the 17th.

A young German sought advice at the Worship Street Police-office, on the 17th. He had married a young lady who appeared attached to him, but for six months refused him all *Marital Rights;* so they separated, she insisting on his allowance to her of a weekly maintenance. After a twelvemonth of separation, his wife came to his house one night and insisted on remaining; he received her, and consented that she should again live with him; but for three months more she persisted in her original eccentricity of wifely relation. This state of things was once more put an end to, and arrangements were made for a final separation; but the young lady came back to him a third time, and she now followed him about, and importuned him in a manner no longer to be endured. Mr. Hammill regretted that he could give no help. He advised the applicant to institute a suit in the Consistorial Court for a divorce, if he had the means of so doing; the German left the court in a state, apparently, of perfect doubt and mystification.

At the Central Criminal Court, on the 21st, a very fashionable looking gentleman, named William Augustus Shean, was tried for *Bigamy*. On the 23rd of June he married Miss Cecilia Charlotte Franchall, a lady of good fortune, and on the 2nd of February, his first wife being still alive—ruined and deserted on the continent—he married Miss Mary Whittaker Greene, on whom a fortune of 15,000*l.* was settled. In 1849 his second wife discovered his nefarious character, and left him; he resorted to annoyances, and threats of criminal accusation against her, and her friends instituted this prosecution for bigamy. He was found guilty, and sent for twelve months to Bridewell.

Mary Fitzgerald was indicted and convicted for *Bigamy;* but many extenuating circumstances being proved, and the object of the prosecutor (her second husband) being merely to get rid of the burden of her support, she was only sentenced to seven days' imprisonment.

The appearance of a person named John Bull before the *Bankruptcy Court*, to pass his last examination, elicited some singular circumstances. The bankrupt was in the coal trade, and Messrs. Colson, in the same trade, were his creditors to the amount of 792*l.* He afterwards took a lodging-house, and fitted it up at an expense of 148*l.*, the furniture having afterwards been seized by the landlord. He afterwards made an assignment to his daughter, and lastly came before the Bankruptcy Court, the petitioning creditor being his own nephew. The bankrupt asserted that he had borrowed the money from his daughter to fit up the lodging-house, which was the cause of the assignment to her, and that the debt to his nephew was a real debt. The commissioner observed that the accounts were very unsatisfactory; that he had reason to believe that the bankruptcy had been concocted for a family purpose; and that the examination must be adjourned.

Lord Brougham delivered judgment in the appeal of Norris *v.* Cottle, confirming the decision of the Court of Exchequer, and settling finally the *Non-liability of Provisional Committee-men.*

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

On the 29th of July, a portion of Brinkway Mill, a large cotton factory recently erected at Stockport, *Fell*, burying ten of the work-people in the ruins. It was the dinner hour, and most of the people were absent, otherwise the destruction of life would have been much greater. The part of the building that fell was where a large water-wheel was about to be erected; for which purpose a larger space than usual was without an iron pillar to support the upper floors, a long iron beam bearing the weight, and it appeared that this beam had given way. The inquest on the bodies found that the floors had been supported by a cast-iron beam of an imperfect construction and of an improper calculation, considering the weight it had to bear.

A *Fire* broke out at midnight, on the 1st inst., at the New Model Prison for juvenile offenders at Parkhurst, of a serious description. One of the principal wings, containing 200 cells, was totally destroyed, besides damage to other parts of the prison. It has been found that the prison was fired by some of the elder convicts, to enable them to effect their escape.

A dreadful *Railway Accident* happened at Glasgow on the 1st inst. A special train left Perth in the morning, by the Scottish Central Railway, to convey a large party of excursionists to view the Highland Society's exhibition in Glasgow. On approaching the city, the train was divided into two sections; when the first went forward it was detained by another train being on the line at Cowlairs. While thus stationary, the second portion of the train suddenly approached at a great speed, and dashed into the first train. Two cattle-trucks, in which were twenty or thirty persons, were smashed to pieces, and the other carriages were damaged. Five persons were killed, and several others were dangerously, if not fatally, injured.

On Sunday, the 3rd, the Prince Arthur steamer, while on a pleasure excursion from Preston to Bangor, and crowded with holiday passengers, was *Wrecked* near Formby. Having sprung a leak, and being in a sinking condition, she was run ashore, and the passengers saved with the utmost difficulty, but the two firemen perished. The vessel, an old boat, fitted for river navigation, went to pieces almost immediately after striking.

Gravesend has suffered from a terrible and destructive *Fire*, which broke out early on the morning of Sunday the 11th, and destroyed no fewer than twenty-nine houses, and damaged eleven others. Several engines were obtained, but they did not prove very efficient, and the fire in a great measure burnt itself out. It is said that there was a difficulty in getting people to work the engines, the authorities not having paid those who gave their assistance on a former occasion. The magistrates held an inquiry into the origin of the disaster, but nothing decisive was elicited.

On the morning of the 20th, the Minerva steamer, plying between Liverpool and Kingston, *Ran down* a merchant brig, called the William Rushton, laden with mahogany, from Mexico. The vessel sank immediately; four of her crew were saved by the Minerva's life-boat, but the remaining seven perished. The accident happened about one o'clock in the morning, during a hard gale; and the brig was not seen from the steamer till it was too late to avoid the collision. The steamer was so much damaged that it was necessary to run her into Beaumaris, where the passengers for Kingston were landed.

On the afternoon of the 21st, the roof of the Bricklayers' Arms Station of the South Eastern Railway, in the Old Kent Road, *Fell in*, burying in the ruins several men and a number of first and second class carriages. Happily there was no passenger train at the station, and most of the workmen were saved from death by the carriages round them. One man, however, named Ryan, was killed, and several others were seriously injured. About six years ago, the roof of a portion of this station fell in with loss of life, and was afterwards reconstructed on a new plan, supposed to be perfectly safe.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

The Registrar-General has made his *Quarterly Return of Marriages, Births and Deaths;* comprising the Births and Deaths registered by 2189 registrars in all the districts of England during the Spring quarter ending June 30th, 1850; and the Marriages in more than 12,000 churches or chapels, 2869 registered places of worship unconnected with the Established Church, and 623 superintendent-registrars' offices, in the quarter which ended March 31st, 1850.

The *Marriages* were 30,425 in the quarter that ended on March 31st, 1850; the marriages in the corresponding quarters of 1847-8-9, were 27,480, 28,398, 28,270. The number of marriages in the first quarter of 1850 was only once exceeded in the 11 corresponding quarters of 1839-49; and the proportion of marriages to population is shown to be much higher in the first quarter of 1850 than in any corresponding quarter since 1839, except in the March quarters of 1845, 1846, when the labouring classes were in full employment.

The *Births* registered in the quarter that ended March 31, 1850, were 144,602; in the quarter that ended June 30, 155,727. Births are always more numerous in the first than in the second half of the year; and from 1840 to 1845 the births registered in the first quarters were more numerous than those registered in the second quarters of the six years; but in 1846-8-9-50, a change has taken place, and the excess of births has been thrown upon the June quarters. The number of births in the June quarter of 1850 is the greatest ever registered in England in the same time. The annual rate of births is obtained by comparing the number of children born in a given time with the corrected population. It was in the last June quarter 3·489 per cent., which is the same as the rate in the corresponding quarter of 1849; and less than that in the June quarter of 1846; but

much more than in any other June quarter of the years 1839—1850.

The *Mortality* is now, it is gratifying to report, much below the average. It has not been so low in any of the corresponding quarters since 1837, when the new system of registration commenced, except in the quarter ending June, 1844. The rate of mortality per cent. per annum in the quarter was 2·084. At this rate one in 192 persons died in the last three months; in 1847, one in 161 persons died in the same time. This shows clearly how much the risk of life has declined. The average chance of living through the three months, April, May, June, among persons of all ages is 179 to 1. 93,005 deaths were registered in the quarter ending June; while the deaths in the corresponding quarters of the four previous years were 90,231, 106,718, 99,730, 102,249. The improved state of the public health has been general; the eastern is the only division in which the deaths of 1850 slightly exceeded the deaths in the corresponding June quarter of 1849. The most considerable decrease is observed in London, and in the north-western division, comprising Cheshire and Lancashire. The improvement in the public health is not confined to the parts which were visited by the epidemic cholera of 1849. A further examination is required before the causes of this improvement can be eliminated; but it may be safely affirmed that they act generally, and have been by no means confined to districts decimated previously by the epidemics either of cholera or influenza. The registrars in their notes refer to sanitary measures, to the state of employment, and to other circumstances which affect the social condition of the people, as probable causes of the happy improvement in the public health. The registrar of Llanelly refers to the depressed state of the iron trade in his district; but this is a solitary case; and the general tone of the notes is, as expressed by the registrar of Kington, that "the people are employed, and feel the great blessing of cheap and plentiful provisions."

Although *Vaccination* is actively promoted by the Poor-law board, is now performed at the public expense, and affords almost complete immunity from small-pox, it is still neglected to a great extent by the ignorant classes of society. Some of the objections to it are excuses for negligence; others are based on a sort of fatalism; but such cases as the registrar of Nottingham records are criminal, and it is to be feared spring from the same cruelty as leads to the sacrifice of children's lives in other circumstances. A woman there who had lost a child by disease, assured the registrar that "she would rather lose half a dozen children by it than fly in the face of Providence in having one vaccinated."

The Report of the Railway Commissioners for 1849, just published, gives some general results of much interest. One is the increase of railway communication during the last year. In the course of 1849, the board sanctioned the opening of 869 miles of new railway—viz., 630 miles in England, 108 miles in Scotland, and 131 in Ireland—"making the whole extent of railway communication, at the end of the year, 5996 miles; the proportion for England being 4656 miles, for Scotland 846 miles, and for Ireland 494 miles." Of the general character of the extensions made within the past year, the report informs us that they largely consist of "small branches and short lines," which were required as "links to complete important communications." The next point of interest is the extent of railway, authorised by parliament, which yet remains to be constructed. It is in length 6030 miles, and a further sum of 126 millions is demanded for it; but though the powers are in force for raising it, the progress of the new constructions is, happily, proceeding at a slower rate than heretofore. On the 30th of June, 1849, only 1504 miles were in actual course of construction, as compared with 2958 in progress on the 1st of May, 1848; and according to returns already presented to parliament, "all work has ceased on about 350 miles of lines which were returned as being in progress in 1848, and which for the present may be considered as abandoned or postponed until more prosperous times." Moreover, the Commissioners infer, from the *data* before them, "that no great length of new line has been commenced since last year, and that probably only about 1000 miles out of the 6030 miles which still remain to be opened at the end of 1849 were in progress of construction at that time." This diminution of the rate of progress has been attended with a very serious diminution in the amount of employment for labour. It is a matter for grave consideration that "the reduction in the number of persons employed in the construction of lines has been very considerable, amounting to 84,361 persons, against an increase of only 3280 employed upon lines open for traffic;" and this reduction, added to that of 1848, and to further reductions which may be expected to take place during the current year, will, we are informed, "make an aggregate of upwards of 200,000 persons, who may be considered as having been temporarily withdrawn from other occupations by the stimulus which railways received in 1845 and 1846, and who must now seek a livelihood in other ways." The rate of profit on capital invested in railways has undergone great reduction. The 5996 miles in actual operation represent, we are told, a capital of about 197,500,000*l.*, yielding a gross annual revenue of 11,806,000*l.*—from which, if the working expenses be deducted at the rate of 43 per cent., there remains a net available profit of about 6,729,420*l.* being at the rate of 3·40 per cent. on the investment. We call the special attention of railway shareholders to the very significant, though obvious, remark which follows:—"It therefore appears," say the Commissioners, "that all sums raised at a higher rate of interest than this must reduce the aggregate revenue available for the original proprietors." On the important topic of railway accidents, the Report shows that the danger of this mode of travelling is reduced to a very trifling amount. During the year 1849 only five passengers were killed "from causes beyond their own control;" that being little more than half the number (nine) of such accidents during the previous year: while, on the other hand, the number of passengers for 1849,—63,841,539,—shows an increase of ten per cent. on the preceding year; facts which speak most favourably of the management of railway conveyance.

The Post Office Returns for 1849, presented to the House of Commons, exhibit some very remarkable results. In the year 1839, before the establishment of the new system, the number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom was 82,470,596. In the following year, 1840, the number rose to 168,768,244; and in 1849 the number was 337,065,867. In 1839 the net revenue, after paying the cost of management, was 1,633,764*l.*; in the following year it fell to 500,789*l.*; and in 1849 it was 840,787*l.* The cost of management, which, in 1839, was 756,999*l.*, amounted in 1849 to 1,324,562*l.* The number of Money Orders issued in 1839 was 188,921 for an amount of 313,124*l.* In the following year the number was 587,797 and the amount 960,975*l.*; and in 1849 the number was 4,248,891 and the amount 8,152,643*l.* The total expense of the Money Order Office for the United Kingdom in 1849, was 70,248*l.*, and the amount of commission received was 70,570*l.*; so that the cost of this department was 322*l.* less than its receipts.

The Poor Law Board has made a Return to the House of Commons, which presents some gratifying results respecting the condition of *Pauperism* at the present time, as compared with the corresponding period of last year. It is divided into two heads; the first gives the total number of paupers (in-door and out-door) in receipt of relief on the 1st of July, 1849, and on the 1st of July, 1850, in 605 unions and parishes under Boards of Guardians in England and Wales. The second head shows the numbers of adult able-bodied paupers receiving in-door and out-door relief at the same two periods in the same unions and parishes. Under the first head it appears on the 1st of July last, the total number of persons receiving relief was 829,708; on 1st July, 1849, the number was 885,737; being a decrease of 56,029, or 6·3 per cent. Under the second head it is stated, that on 1st of July last, the number of adult able-bodied paupers receiving relief was 138,575; on 1st July, 1849, the number was 164,559; being a decrease of 25,984, or 15·8 per cent. Of the 52 counties of England and Wales, there has been a decrease on 40. On the remaining twelve (which are Kent, Lincoln, Norfolk, Northumberland, Rutland, Stafford, Suffolk, Westmoreland, Anglesea, Brecon,

Merioneth, and Pembroke) there has been an increase varying from a half to 4 per cent., excepting the Isle of Anglesea, on which the increase has amounted to 23·9 per cent.; a remarkable circumstance which requires explanation.

From a separate Parliamentary Return relative to *Ireland* it appears that the total number of paupers receiving in-door relief in that country during the week ending July 27th, 1850, was 235,793, the number for the corresponding period in 1849 having been 205,104. The number of persons who received out-door relief during the week ending July 27th, 1850, was 101,486, while the number during the corresponding week of 1849, was 723,530. The cost of the out-door relief for the week in this year was 2,184*l.*; for the week in last year it was 19,810*l.*

The *Metropolitan Interments Act*, recently passed, will be speedily enforced in "the metropolitan burial district," which comprises the city of London, Westminster, Southwark, and numerous parishes set forth in one of the schedules annexed. The provisions of the act are to be executed by the Board of Health. The board may provide new burial-grounds, and her Majesty, on a report of the board, in council, may order the discontinuance of interments in churchyards and other places. Regarding the removal of poor persons to reception-houses to be provided, it is enacted by the 30th section, that the board may, at any time after the passing of the act, appoint medical or other officers, who, in the case of deaths within the district, may, "where the persons having the direction of the funeral of the deceased may so desire," cause the body to be decently removed to one of the houses for the reception of the dead. Among the provisions is one under which the Board of Health may "contract" for funerals at fixed charges, so that there are likely to be "three classes" of funerals, according to the means of the parties. The salary of the additional member of the Board of Health (to which office Dr. Southwood Smith has been appointed) is not to exceed 1200*l.* a-year.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science has held its meeting this year at Edinburgh. It commenced its proceedings on the 31st of July. Many distinguished foreigners were present; including Dr. Strüve from the Observatory of Pulkova, Dr. Kupffer from St. Petersburgh, and Professor Hitchcock from Amherst College, United States. Sir David Brewster officiated as President. The transactions were of the usual character, and the meeting broke up on the 7th. The meeting of next year is to be held at Ipswich; and Professor Airy, the Astronomer-Royal, is the President-elect.

At one of the above meetings, Dr. Strang, Chamberlain of Glasgow, read a paper on the recent *Progress of Glasgow* in population, wealth, commerce and manufactures. In 1801 the population was 77,000; in 1821, 147,043; 1831, 202,426; 1841, 282,134; and in 1850 it was estimated to amount to 367,800. The population had thus quintupled itself in 50 years, and doubled itself in 20 years. In 1800 the streets and roads within the parliamentary bounds of the city extended to 30 miles; at present the formed and paved streets alone extend to 96 miles. In 1800 there was little or no sewerage in Glasgow. At present there are 42 miles of main sewers, 21 of which have been formed during the last six years, at a cost of 1200*l.* per mile. The customs duties in Glasgow, in 1801, were 469*l.*; in 1820, 11,000*l.*; in 1830, 59,013*l.*; in 1840, 468,974*l.*; and in 1850, 640,568*l.* The letters put into the Post-Office in 1840, were 54,522; while in 1850 they were 111,504. Cotton-spinning was first introduced into Glasgow in 1792, and at present there are 1,800,000 spindles, which annually consume 45,000,000 lbs. of cotton. The increase that has taken place in the assessment for the poor over the whole of Glasgow cannot be determined; but some idea may be formed of it from the state of matters in the old burgh of Glasgow. In 1784, it was 1082*l.*; in 1816, 12,378*l.*; and in 1850, 47,787*l.* Taking the whole parliamentary bounds of the city, the annual assessment for the poor at present is 80,000*l.*

From a statement lately published, it appears that there are 14,000 *Enrolled Friendly Societies* in the United Kingdom, having 1,600,000 members, an annual revenue amounting to 2,800,000*l.*, and an accumulated capital of 6,400,000*l.* A still greater number of Friendly Societies are not enrolled, and do not possess the privileges and means of self-protection enjoyed by the former class. It is estimated that there are 33,223 unenrolled Societies, in the United Kingdom, having 3,052,000 members, an annual revenue of 4,980,000*l.*, and with funds amounting to no less than 11,360,000*l.* These immense amounts are derived from the savings of the purely industrial classes. Indeed, half of the labouring male adult population are members of Friendly Societies.

The *Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland* had its great show of prize stock and implements at Glasgow in the last week of July. This society has been formed by the junction of two associations formerly separate, the one representing the landlord and the other the tenant class; and the magnitude and quality of this exhibition showed how well the two bodies work together.

At a Court of Commissioners of Sewers, on the 13th, the scheme of Mr. Frank Forster, the engineer of the Commission, for the *Drainage of the Metropolis* on the south bank of the Thames, was adopted. The main features of the scheme are, that it proposes to collect the ordinary drainage of the southern part of the Metropolis by four great principal arms, confluent at different points, and which ultimately form a single trunk at Deptford, near Collier Street. Here the stream is "lifted," by steam power, a height not exceeding twenty-five feet; and from this new elevation it will gravitate afresh to a point eight miles below London Bridge; where will be formed "a double reservoir, capable of holding at least twenty-four hours' drainage" covered over, and elevated to such a height as to discharge the whole of its contents (into the Thames) at high-water, delivering them by means of pipes near the middle and at the bottom of the river. The sewerage will be lifted into the reservoir at this point (by means of an engine) from the main sewer; the invert of which is proposed to be at about mean low-water, and ten feet below the surface of the marshes. The "estimate" of these works is estimated by Mr. Forster at 241,297*l.*

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

On the 6th, the *birth-day* of Prince Alfred, the Queen and Prince Albert gave a fête to the servants of the royal household, the labourers employed at Osborne, with their wives and families; and the seamen of the royal yacht. They were all entertained at an excellent dinner in a spacious marquee in the grounds; and the evening was gaily spent in dancing, and a great variety of English athletics and other sports. At seven o'clock the Queen and Prince Albert, with the royal family and guests, who had greatly enjoyed the sports of the afternoon, retired amid the cheers of the hundreds assembled.

The Queen left Osborne on the 22nd for a short visit to the king of the Belgians at Ostend. The flotilla consisting of the Victoria and Albert and the Fairy steam-yachts, and two war steamers, arrived a little before noon, and her Majesty with Prince Albert and the royal children were met, on landing, by the king, who had arrived to meet them. An immense concourse of people received the illustrious visitors with more than Flemish enthusiasm. The Queen remained at Ostend till the next day, but as the palace there is very small, the royal party slept on board their yacht. They returned on the evening of the 23rd to Osborne.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert *completed his Thirty-First Year* on the 26th, and the anniversary was held with the usual demonstrations of loyalty.

Her Majesty left town on the 27th for Scotland.

Lord Gough received the *Freedom of the City of Edinburgh* on the 5th, as an acknowledgment of his eminent military services. He is now enrolled a citizen of the capital of the three kingdoms.

The Duke of Wellington has been appointed *Ranger of St. James's and Hyde Parks*, in the room of the late Duke of Cambridge.

The late Sir Robert Peel has left directions in his will for the early publication of his political memoirs, and

has ordered that the profits arising from the publication shall be given to some public institution for the education of the working classes. He has confided the task of preparing these memoirs to Lord Mahon and Mr. Cardwell. The will has been proved, and duty paid on personal property under 500,000*l*.

Sir William Gomm, K.C.B., has been appointed *Commander in Chief of the Presidency of Bombay*. A grand banquet was given by the East India Company in honour of his appointment on the 10th, at the London Tavern.

Sir George Anderson has been appointed *Governor of Ceylon*, in the room of Lord Torrington, who is recalled; and Sir George is to be succeeded in the Government of the Mauritius by Mr. Higginson, now Governor of the Leeward Islands.

Her Majesty has appointed Mr. Henry Hardwicke, architect, to be *Treasurer of the Royal Academy*, in place of Sir Robert Smirke, who has resigned in consequence of ill health.

Dr. Nicholas Wiseman having been elected a *Cardinal*, and on the eve of proceeding to Rome to be installed in his new dignity, delivered a farewell sermon at St. George's Cathedral in Westminster Road on Sunday the 11th. A great concourse of the Roman Catholic nobility and gentry were present in the morning, when high mass was celebrated, and the cardinal elect delivered an address, expatiating on the success of Romanism throughout the world, and extolling the zealous labours of the clergy in his own district. In the evening he delivered a second sermon, when many clergymen of the Church of England were present.

Accounts have been received at the Admiralty, from Captain Austin, commander of the *Arctic Expedition*, dated on board the Resolute, Whale Fish Islands, 23rd of June. No information had been obtained respecting the missing vessels; and the expedition was about to proceed northward to pursue the search. Each ship was provided with provisions, stores, and warm clothing, for fully three years, and the tenders had on board coals to the amount of 310 tons each. The dispatch concludes; "The vessels composing the expedition may be considered in every way efficient; and it is with much pleasure and satisfaction that I report, that excellent health and spirits, goodwill, and unanimity prevail throughout."

The election for the *County of Mayo* terminated on the 27th of July, when Mr. Ouseley Higgins was returned by 141 votes; his competitor, Mr. Isaac Butt, polling 93.

On the 6th the *Election for Lambeth* terminated in the return of Mr. William Williams, by 3,834 votes. His competitors, Sir Charles Napier and Mr. Hinde Palmer polled, the first 1182, and the second 585 votes.

Mr. Fox Maule was elected, on the 1st instant, one of the *Governors of the Charter-house*, in room of Sir Robert Peel. Mr. Maule was educated at that seminary.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

Louis Philippe, the ex-king of the French, died at Claremont on the 26th. He had been made aware on the preceding day of his approaching dissolution, and died with great calmness and Christian resignation. A little before his death he dictated a conclusion to his Memoirs, which illness had compelled him to suspend for some months. He was born on the 6th of October, 1773, and was the eldest son of Philippe, Duke of Orleans, known by the name of *Egalité*. During his youth he struggled with adversity, and was for some time a teacher in an academy in Switzerland. By the revolution of 1830 he obtained the crown of France, which he lost by the revolution of 1848. He has ever since lived in retirement in England.

Captain Newbold, one of the most distinguished of our Indian geographers, died at Mahebuleshwar on the 29th of May.

Lieut.-Col. T. Robinson, the political agent at Meywar, died at Neemuch on the 18th of June, in his 63rd year.

Sir John Peniston Milbanke, Bart., died on the 27th ult., at Halnaby, in Yorkshire. He was son of Mr. J. Milbanke, (second son of the fifth baronet), and was born on the 20th of August, 1775. In March, 1826, he succeeded his uncle, Sir Ralph, whose only daughter married Lord Byron.

The Earl of Dunraven died on the 6th inst., at Adare Abbey, county Limerick, in the 69th year of his age. His lordship's malady was chronic suppurative disease of the windpipe. He is succeeded by his son, Viscount Adare, M.P. for Glamorganshire.

Sir Launcelot Shadwell, Vice-Chancellor of England, died on the morning of the 10th, in his 71st year. His death was caused by an attack of paralysis, under which he laboured for a month.

The Honourable Charles Ewan Law, Recorder of the City of London, died on the 13th, in his 58th year. He was the second son of the first Lord Ellenborough, and brother to the present Earl. He had represented the University of Cambridge in parliament for seventeen years.

Percival Weldon Banks, M.A., barrister-at-law, died on the 13th. He was a man of much accomplishment, of great taste in literature, to which (in the various periodicals of the last fifteen years) he had largely contributed, and he was making progress in his profession.

M. De Balzac, the popular novelist, died at Paris on the 18th.

Mr. Robert Henry Hunt, the elder brother of Mr. Leigh Hunt, died on the 15th, at his apartment in the Charterhouse. He had lately received Her Majesty's nomination to the brotherhood of that foundation, and had only resided there for a few weeks. He was in his 77th year, and had for some time been quite helpless, owing to his having been accidentally run over about a year ago.

Sir Martin Archer Shee, President of the Royal Academy, died, at Brighton, on the 19th, in his 80th year. He was elected to the above office in 1830, on the death of Sir Thomas Lawrence, when he received the honour of knighthood. He retired in 1845 from the active duties of the office, which have been since performed by Mr. Turner.

Mr. J. H. Ley, Clerk of the House of Commons, died on the 21st. He was appointed an assistant-clerk of the house in 1801, and raised to that of principal clerk in 1821; so that he has been in the service of the House of Commons without intermission for forty-nine years. He was a Bencher of the Middle-Temple, and a magistrate for the County of Devon.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

HARDLY any thing of interest transpires from India or the Colonies this month, except that Sir Charles Napier returns home in October, and that the Canadian House of Assembly has adopted a series of resolutions against the Clergy Reserves Act. The effect of them, if carried out, will be to separate Church and State in Canada. They affirm the equal religious rights of all classes; denounce the influence of Church Establishments and Ecclesiastical Endowments; and declare the necessity of an immediate resumption by the State of the Clergy Reserves, and their appropriation to the general education of the people, or other useful secular purposes. This is a noticeable colonial fact in connection with the new Canterbury Settlement proposed by a batch of settlers to New Zealand, who have consented to pay three times as much for their land as is paid in the Government colonies, that they may have the peculiar satisfaction of forming an inalienable fund for the support of a regular Church out there, and of taking across seas with them a full-fledged bishop.

The *Overland Mail* has brought dates from Calcutta, July 2nd; Madras, July 9th; Hong-kong, June 23rd; and Alexandria, August 7th. The most remarkable article of intelligence is the resignation of Sir Charles Napier, the Commander in Chief, who is to leave India in October. The cause is said to have been a misunderstanding with the Governor General. Sir Charles had issued some general orders respecting military arrangements without previously consulting the government; a dispute ensued which ended in the Commander in Chief's resignation. It is supposed the matter will be brought before parliament. Both the Governor General and Sir Charles Napier were at Simla.—The whole of British India remains quite tranquil; and the public attention in all presidencies is much occupied with the subject of railways; various new lines being in agitation.

—The inquiry into the catastrophe at Benares has proved unsatisfactory, the cause of explosion still remaining a mystery. The lowest estimate of the number of persons killed is 400.

The accounts from *Canton* state the export of last seasons tea is 54 millions of pounds. The export of the previous year was 47 millions; there being thus an increase of 7 millions. The import trade at Canton was in a most depressed state.

Several cases of cholera had occurred both at *Alexandria* and *Cairo*; and another visitation of the disease was apprehended. The Viceroy fled from Cairo as soon as the cholera appeared: he proceeded down the Nile to Damietta and thence embarked for Rhodes on the 5th inst. The Nile was rising more slowly than usual. Cotton had risen to 14 dollars per. cantar, but there was little business doing, many people were leaving the country from fear of the cholera.

The accounts from the *West Indies* reach the end of July. In Jamaica there had been heavy rains, but the effects of a previous drought had shown themselves. In Trelawny, a great agricultural parish, fears were entertained for the crop on the ground. In other districts they looked more cheerful.—In Demerara the weather had been rather dry and auspicious for the planters. The question of Coolie immigration chiefly occupied public attention, and three bills had been introduced by the Attorney General into the Court of Policy to regulate immigration.—A disastrous hurricane had visited Barbadoes, St. Kitt's, St. Martin's, Dominica, Antigua, and Martinique. A vast deal of property was destroyed, and many vessels with valuable cargoes totally lost.

Accounts of recent dates have been received from the *Australian Colonies*. At Sydney there was much dissatisfaction with the home government for its neglect to carry into operation a system of steam communication.

From Port Philip the most prominent article of news is the discovery of an extensive field of coal at Western Port. It appears from a survey just completed that the coal measures present a continuous section for ten miles, to the river Bourne, and re-appear six miles along the coast, at Cape Patterson, where the coal rises to the surface.—About the middle of March a great meeting was held at Melbourne for the promotion of German immigration, at which Prince Frederick of Augustenburg was present; his highness had been visiting the surrounding country, and the formation of a large German settlement was expected.—From Van Dieman's Land it is stated that the convicts from the Cape of Good Hope had been landed at Hobart Town, to the great disgust of the inhabitants, who were preparing to make a strong demonstration against convict importation. Mr. Smith O'Brien was to be removed from Maria Island to Port Arthur, where preparations were making for his reception. He was to continue under the strictest surveillance.—In South Australia considerable sickness had prevailed, especially at Adelaide; it is ascribed to the impurity of the water. The great government sales at the Emu Plains had taken place, and a large sum was realised. The financial accounts are very favourable. From an official return of the revenue for the quarter ending 31st March last, it appears that the receipts were 52,828*l.*; and that, although the expenditure is charged with 11,500*l.* remitted to England for payment of interest and in reduction of principal of the bonded debts, still there was a surplus of 10,000*l.* of revenue over expenditure during the quarter. Coal has been discovered at Kangaroo Island.—In West Australia there had been considerable discussion as to the justice of inflicting the punishment of death on natives for crimes committed among themselves. Three natives (brothers) of a tribe distant forty miles from York were convicted and sentenced to be hanged. The execution was fixed for April 12th. On the evening of the 11th, in consequence of a memorial addressed to the governor on the inconsistency of executing men for crimes to which, among themselves, no turpitude attached, and suggesting that the execution of one would satisfy the ends of justice, his excellency assured the memorialists that he fully concurred in their suggestion and accordingly reprieved two of the culprits. On the following day the elder native was executed in the presence of his two brothers, and shortly after the hangman proceeded to place the rope on the necks of these men; they resisted violently, but being overpowered by the sheriff's assistants, the fatal cord was adjusted and the bolt about to be withdrawn, when the governor's secretary rode up hastily to the sheriff, and presented him with a letter commanding a reprieve. The wretched culprits were wholly at a loss to understand the procedure. The effect of this melodramatic scene on the natives is described as by no means favourable; it being calculated to impress them with the notion that fear more than humanity dictated the reprieve.

There are advices from *Toronto* to the 10th. On that day the provincial parliament was prorogued by Lord Elgin, to the 19th of September. His excellency complimented the members on their zeal and diligence, and congratulated them on the improvement in the revenue and the promise of an abundant harvest.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

The *Canterbury Association* gave a farewell breakfast on the 30th of July to the first body of colonists now about to emigrate to New Zealand, on board the ship "Randolph," lying in the East India Docks. More than three hundred guests were elegantly entertained, among whom were Lord Lyttelton (who did the honours as host), the Bishop of Norwich, Lord and Lady Wharncliffe, Lord Nelson and Lady Susan Nelson, the Countess Grey, the Marchioness of Drogheda, Miss Burdett Coutts, Lady Shelley, Lady Caroline Sterling, and other persons of distinction. Several interesting speeches were made, and the tone of the meeting was animated and hopeful.

The Female Emigration Society, who have during the present year sent out six parties of young women to Sidney and Port Philip, dispatched their first party for Canada, on the 3rd inst., by the barque "Elspeth."

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

TIME was when the death of Louis Philippe would have agitated the Continent from one end to the other, but his importance passed away with his power; and the only interest now awakened is that which attends the disappearance of a man who has played by far the most memorable part on the theatre of the modern world, and has supplied its most sorrowful and most instructive lesson of human vicissitude.

Louis Napoleon has been travelling in search of a throne, and appears to have failed in obtaining any reasonable prospect of the object of his quest. He started in great spirits, and in the first city he visited, which was Dijon, told the people very frankly that they knew what he wanted; but in the second, which was Lyons, he saw the expediency of so far altering his tone as to say, that what he wanted he was also quite ready to surrender if the people did *not* want it; in the third, which was Besançon, he found it necessary to make his escape from a popular ball pretty nearly as soon as he had entered it; and in the fourth, which was Strasburgh, even the *Moniteur* is forced to confess that there was no "enthusiasm." In short, it is quite clear that the prince's chances of the Empire are become infinitesimally small, however reasonable even yet may be his chances (in the poverty of other competitors) for one more term of the Presidency.

The quarrel of the Danes and the Schleswig-Holsteiners has resulted in a great battle and a small protocol; the battle bringing some seventy thousand men into the field, sacrificing lives by thousands, and settling nothing; the protocol wasting but an ordinary-sized sheet of paper, requiring but the signatures of England, France, and Russia, and bidding fair (for the present at least) to settle everything. For, though Prussia and Austria withhold their assent to the protocol, there is every reason to believe that the gallant little duchies must now submit; and no doubt their fate will point a moral and adorn a tale for Mr. Cobden, General Haynau, and the other members of the Universal Peace Congress now assembled to speechify at Frankfort.

America has received a new and apparently satisfactory batch of governing ministers from Mr. President Fillmore, who makes Mr. Webster, a man of genius, his principal secretary of state; but the hope of any amicable settlement of the slavery dispute has again received a decisive check. Spain is in great grief for a famous bull-fighter, lately tossed and mangled by a fierce Andalusian bull; and a daily bulletin is issued.

The *French Assembly* broke up on the 9th, without any formal prorogation. On that day there was "no house," there being only 230 present instead of 376, the number required by law: so the assembly closed its session by being "counted out." It re-assembles on the 11th of November. The committee of *surveillance* is to sit during the recess, and a majority of its members are to be always resident in Paris.

On the 12th, the President set out on an extensive tour through the Provinces. He had previously given several military banquets, which, from their imperial aspect, and the political spirit manifested by the guests, created a great sensation. On one of these occasions, a dinner to the officers of a portion of the garrison of Paris, it is told, that after the company left the table, they adjourned into the garden to smoke their cigars; and there Louis Napoleon, seeing a musket (probably put there on purpose), took it up, and went through the manual exercise with great dexterity, to the great delight of the sergeants and corporals, who shouted "Vive le petit Corporal!" (the Emperor's pet-name among the soldiers) with great enthusiasm.

The French Journals, are filled with accounts of the President's journey; but their details are of a very monotonous kind; descriptions of triumphal entries into towns; receptions and harangues by the authorities right royally responded to; reviews; balls, and visits to theatres; every movement attended by shouting crowds generally testifying great enthusiasm for the name of Napoleon, and the memory of the Emperor, not unfrequently mingled, however, with manifestations of republicanism; and it is singular enough, the existing government being a republic, that the republican cries have the air of proceeding from disaffected malcontents. The President has been liberal in his distribution of crosses of the Legion of Honour, sometimes accompanied with gratuities in money to old officers, and soldiers of the Imperial Army. At Dijon he thus decorated, adding a present of 500 francs, an old soldier who had served under the Emperor in Egypt and had lost his feet, frozen in the retreat from Moscow. —At Lyons the President's reception was peculiarly favourable, and the day he spent there the most brilliant of his journey. He was entertained at a splendid breakfast in the Jardin d'Hiver, got up by subscription, and attended by an immense assemblage, full of enthusiasm. At noon there was a grand review of troops. He then visited many of the manufactories in the Faubourg des Croix Rousses, the most turbulent quarter of the city, into which he went with scarcely any escort. Afterwards he was entertained at a grand dinner by the Chamber of Commerce, where the scene was quite sentimental *à la Française*. On his health being toasted with immense acclamations, he made a speech in acknowledgment, which he concluded thus:— "On the eve of bidding you farewell, permit me, I pray you, gentlemen, to remind you of certain expressions that have been celebrated. But, no! I cannot go on, it would be too much vanity on my part to say to you as the Emperor said, 'People of Lyons, I love you.' You will, however, I trust, allow me to say to you, which I do from the bottom of my heart, 'Lyonnese, I pray you love me.'" These words, spoken with some emotion, produced an electrical effect on the audience; every man stood up, and a triple round of applause responded to the petition preferred by the President of the Republic, and cries of "Oui, oui, nous vous aimons!"

The evening was concluded by a visit to the theatre. As he entered his box the whole house rose with the cry of "Vive le President! Vive Napoleon!" On three different occasions a solitary voice from the upper gallery cried, with all the force of his lungs, the more earnest that it was not responded to, "Vive la République!" It is scarcely necessary to say that the house was crammed from top to bottom.

On several subsequent occasions the President was more roughly received, particularly at Basançon, when a ball, given to him, became the scene of a violent disturbance. A torrent of the populace burst into the room, shouting "Vive la Republique!" and causing the utmost terror and confusion. Amid the shrieks of ladies, the company and the President himself, hastily abandoned the room, leaving it in possession of the rioters; but General Castellane, who, sword in hand, had protected the President's retreat, ordered a charge of cavalry on the mob in the street; and at the same time the room was cleared at the point of the bayonet. At another ball, in the theatre, he was well received. He afterwards proceeded to Strasburgh, where, and throughout Alsace, his reception was of a chequered kind; acclamations of multitudes mingled with strong marks of disaffection. At Strasburgh a conspiracy against his life was detected and several arrests took place in consequence. On the 23rd, the President left Strasburgh for Nancy, and Metz.

There has been a sort of *Congress of Legitimists* at Wiesbaden, assembled round the Count de Chambord, who assumes a royal state, keeping a sort of court, and giving formal receptions and audiences to his adherents, with whom the little town has been filled. Among them were M. Berryer, General de St. Priest, and M. de la Rochejaquelin.

Little progress in the *German Question* has as yet been made by the Congress at Frankfort. At a meeting on the 8th, at which Count Thun, the Austrian plenipotentiary, presided, it was decided that Austria should formally invite all the members of the Bund to assemble at Frankfort on the 1st of September next. A circular note of the 18th of August, in which the Minister-President reiterates the assurances so solemnly given in the circular of the 19th July, that it is the earnest wish of Austria to make such reforms in the Act of Confederation as may be required by the recent change of circumstances in Germany, and may conduce to the unity of the common fatherland, was accordingly despatched with the Frankfort summons to the different courts on the 15th. It remains to be seen whether Prussia and the League will accept this proposal.

In *Piedmont* a great sensation has been produced by a collision with the papal power. The Sardinian Minister of Finance, the Cavalière Santa Rosa, who had supported the ministry in passing the law which rendered the clergy amenable to the civil courts, being on his deathbed, was refused the sacrament by the monks, under the direction of Franzoni the Archbishop of Turin. At his funeral such excitement was manifested by the people, that to avoid an actual outbreak, the monks were ordered to leave the city, and the possessions of their order were sequestered. In the search through their house, documents were found which inculpated the Archbishop Franzoni himself, and he was consequently arrested and imprisoned in the fortress of Fenestrelles. Both Austria and Rome, however, have

interfered; and, in consequence, the editor of *L'Opinione*, a liberal journal, has been banished from the Sardinian States.

A continuance of heavy rain in *Belgium* on the 15th, 16th, and 17th has produced disastrous inundations in various parts of that country. At Antwerp there was a tremendous storm of rain, wind, and thunder. The lightning struck several buildings; many of the streets were under water; and large trees were uprooted in the neighbouring country. At Ghent a large sugar manufactory was destroyed by lightning, and people were killed by it in different places. A great part of the city of Brussels and the neighbouring villages were under water for nearly two days; and many houses were so much damaged that they fell, and a number of persons perished. Near Charleroi all the fields were submerged, and the injury done to the crops was immense. At Valenciennes the Scheldt overflowed, inundating the neighbouring country, and causing vast devastation. The damage done to the crops has produced a rise in the price of flour. Many bridges have been swept away, and the injury done to the railways has been immense.

The commencement of the *War between Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein*, was marked by a bloody battle on the 25th of July, at Idstedt, a place near the town of Schleswig, when the Danish army, under General Krogh defeated the Schleswig-Holstein troops under General Willesen. The battle lasted for two days, and was desperately fought. It appears that General Willesen lost from 2,500 to 3,000 men, including a large proportion of officers. The loss of the Danes was even greater, as they did not pursue the worsted army. It included General Schleppegrell, the second in command, and several other officers of rank. After the battle General Willesen took up a strong position near Schestedt, and issued a proclamation on the 27th, declaring that the spirit of the army was unbroken, and that in a few days, it would be stronger than before. Another engagement, but neither extensive nor decisive, took place on the 8th, between the Danish and Holstein forces, at Sorgurück near Rendsburg.—On the previous day a frightful catastrophe occurred at Rendsburg, in the explosion of the laboratory of the artillery, whereby the whole building was destroyed, with the loss of nearly a hundred lives, and a great quantity of military ammunition.

The King of *Denmark* has contracted a morganatic marriage with Lola Rasmussen, a person of low degree, and formerly a milliner. She has great influence over the king, and has obtained from him the title of Baroness Danner.

Advices from *New York* have been received to the 16th inst.—The "Compromise Bill," introduced into the senate by Mr. Clay, for the purpose of conciliating the differences between the northern and southern states, was nominally passed, but substantially defeated, on the 31st of July. The bill originally contained provisions for the admission of California, the settlement of the Texas boundary, the admission of New Mexico and Utah as territories, and provisions to reclaim fugitive slaves from free states. All the provisions except the admission of Utah were struck out by amendments brought forward by Mr. Dawson of Georgia and Mr. Pearce of Maryland. This result has created a deep sensation throughout the country.

A treaty has been concluded with Mexico for a route from the Atlantic to the Pacific, across the isthmus of Tehuantepec. It is provided that the United States may send forces for the protection of the work, if necessary; that both governments are to maintain neutrality on the route, and ten leagues on each side thereof, in times of war as well as of peace; and that Mexico is to maintain full sovereignty over the route and over the territory designated as neutral. The distance from sea to sea in a direct line is 135 miles, but the length of the projected line is 198 miles; the summit level to be overcome is 650 feet.

A desperate affray occurred at New York on the 5th inst., between the police and a mob composed of tailors, in which some lives were lost. The disturbance was caused by the tailors attacking the house of a man who was said to be working at prices below those usually charged.

The demonstration recently made at Lisbon is not likely to be attended by any serious result. It is now stated that the presence of two United States ships of war at Lisbon was not meant to denote any hostile intent; and that a certain number of days having been allowed to the Portuguese Government to reply to the United States demands, merely meant that if the reply should not be made, or not made in a satisfactory manner, the President, General Taylor, intended to lay the matter again before Congress, for further action.

Sir H. Bulwer arrived at New York on the 27th of July.

The California State Bill passed the senate on the 13th inst. by a majority of 34 to 18. Mr. Pearce's bill for the settlement of the boundary dispute between Texas and New Mexico had passed on the 9th by a majority of 30 to 20. The bill establishing a territorial government of New Mexico was sanctioned on the 15th inst.

Intelligence had been received from Havanna relative to the remainder of the Cuba prisoners. Seven of them are to be liberated in the course of the month; the other three are to have eight years of the chain gang. This is the wind-up of Lopez's piratical invasion of Cuba.

President Fillmore's new administration is constituted as follows:—Secretary of State, Mr. Webster; Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Corwin; Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Graham; Postmaster-General, Mr. Hall; Secretary of the Interior, Mr. McKennan; Secretary of War, Mr. Conrad; Attorney-General, Mr. Crittenden.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THOUGH "the publishing season" is at an end, some items in our appended summary will show that books are still published occasionally which can never be unseasonable. But it is a dull time; and French novel-readers will think it all the gloomier for having brought the death of Balzac. He was a writer of undoubted genius. Whatever English taste might find to object to in him, it remained undeniable that the author of *Père Goriot*, the *Peau de Chagrin*, *Eugenie Grandet*, and the *Recherche de l'Absolu*, took rank with the highest masters of fiction. Victor Hugo spoke at his grave, and well remarked that nothing more distinctly impresses us with our divine destiny than so to stand in the presence of the illustrious dead. Nor, beside the memory even of a man of genius so unquestionable as Balzac, will a word of regret be inopportune for one of the most delicate female writers in the modern literature of America. Margaret Fuller perished in the great storm off the American coast at the close of last month; and with her has departed a clear and just intellect, an exact and beautiful perception of the niceties of art and poetry, and a courage true and fearless, which our American friends can ill spare. She had married the Count d'Ossoli during a somewhat prolonged residence in Europe, and was returning home with her husband and child. Other calamities affecting not less the humanising influence of the arts, though mixed up with no personal regrets, are to be found in such incidents as the dispersion or destruction of great picture-galleries. The Hague has lost its noble collection of paintings; and all its famous master-pieces of the Italian, Flemish, and Dutch schools, are now on their way to the public galleries of St. Petersburg or Paris, with the exception of such isolated specimens

as Lord Hertford may bring home for the walls of his private mansion, or Mr. Dominic Colnaghi may have purchased for his wealthy patrons in Pall Mall East. No commissioner from the National Gallery of England stood in the sale-room beside those from the capitals of Russia and France; and Englishmen have the additional mortification of reflecting that among the rarest and most choice possessions of the gallery thus dispersed, was the collection of Italian drawings made by Sir Thomas Lawrence, and forming originally but a part of that priceless general collection which our government refused some fifteen years ago to purchase, at a sum less than has since been demanded for portions of it only, illustrating particular schools. Thus the fiction of the Sybil's books has come literally true in this deplorable matter. It may be said that the Dutch at least have not the advantage of us; but their poverty and not their will consents. The gallery of the Hague was mortgaged some years since to the Emperor of Russia; and the cause of its present dispersion is the belief of the Dutchmen that it was worth more than the mortgage-money. This turns out to have been well founded. Among the prices given was six thousand guineas for two portraits by Vandyke !—a sum, we believe, without example.

As Wordsworth's *Prelude* and its attack on the Universities opened our last month's summary, this month's may open with Professor Sedgwick's *Discourse on the Studies of the University of Cambridge*, of which the fifth edition has just appeared with a new preface four hundred and thirty pages long. Considering that the discourse itself occupies something less than a hundred pages, this preface may be pronounced a somewhat remarkable achievement. It is principally devoted to an onslaught on the principles of the author of *Vestiges of Creation* in reference to science and philosophy, and on those of the authors of the *Tracts for the Times* in regard to religion and belief. Professor Sedgwick thinks the middle way apparently the safest in most matters; and in this spirit remarks also on the proposed commission of inquiry into the Universities. He protests against Wordsworth as an authority in favour of its necessity, on the one hand; but is not less disposed, on the other, to reject such authorities against it as Lord Brougham or Mr. Stuart.

Of books in the higher departments of publication, we have to notice the appearance of an elaborate work on *Tubular Bridges* by Mr. Edwin Clark, with a striking folio of illustrative drawings and lithographs. Also of an Essay in two goodly octavos on *Ancient Egypt under the Pharaohs* by Mr. Kenrick, full of learning, yet full of interest, because grafting on the ascertained old history all the modern elucidations of travellers and artists, critics and interpreters. It appears to be but a portion of a contemplated work comprehending a complete history of those countries of the East whose civilisation preceded and influenced that of Greece; and to our proper understanding of which, the discovery of the hieroglyphic character, and such researches as those of Mr. Layard, have lately contributed an entire new world of information. Another book remarkable for the precision and completeness of its knowledge, is Doctor Latham's *Natural History of the Varieties of Man*, a very important contribution to the literature of ethnology; and with this we must connect in subject, though certainly not in any other kind of merit, an eccentric fragment on the *Races of Man* by Doctor Robert Knox.

Mrs. Jameson has published a second series of her *Poetry of Sacred and Legendary Art*, in a volume of *Legends of the Monastic Orders*, similarly illustrated; and nothing can be more graceful than this lady's treatment of a subject which has not much, to our thinking, that is graceful in itself. She clips its claws, and makes it fit for drawing-room society; but essentially, the theme is odious, though the institution had its uses, after the fashion of all things that have existed for any time in the world. To understand and feel the temper in which they should be judged in the present day, let the reader, however, study such books as *Sermons on some of the Subjects of the Day* by the new dean of Bristol, on which the true Christian spirit of modern life is impressed, in vivid contrast with the dangerous assumptions of Tractarianism.

To biography, a new volume of the *Life of Chalmers* has been the most interesting addition. A *Life of Ebenezer Elliott*, by his son-in-law, possesses also some interest; and, with a little less of the biographer and more of the biography, would have been yet more successful. In English fiction, a semi-chartist novel called *Alton Locke*, full of error and earnestness, and evidently by a university man of the so-called Christian Socialist school, is the most noticeable work of the kind that has lately appeared. The other romances of the month have been translations from the German and French. The *Two Brothers* is somewhat in the school of Miss Bremer; and *Stella and Vanessa* is a novel by a graceful French writer very agreeably translated by Lady Duff Gordon, of which the drift is to excuse Swift for his conduct to Mrs. Johnson and Miss Vanhomrigh. The subject is curious, and the treatment (for a Frenchman) not less so. Nothing painful or revolting is dwelt upon, and if it does not satisfy it fails to offend. Dates spoil the author's arguments and inferences; but the countrymen of Swift have reason to be grateful to the gentlemanly purpose and intention of M. Leon de Wailly.

The *Barbarigo Gallery* at Venice, celebrated for ages for its rich collection, especially of the works of Titian, has been purchased by the court of Russia for 560,000 francs, or 22,400*l.* sterling.

The great *Collection at the Hague*, belonging to the king of the Netherlands, has been sold by auction, the sale occupying many days. The pictures having been chiefly purchased by private individuals, are thus scattered over the world; comparatively few have come to this country, and none have been purchased for behoof of the English public.

The fine *Collection of Pictures*, the magnificent gift of the late Mr. Vernon to the nation, have been removed from the National Gallery to Marlborough House; and the works of English artists, which were previously in the National Gallery, have been added to it. These last, however, are kept apart from the Vernon pictures. The ground floor of the building is appropriated to this purpose. It contains a suite of rooms, the first two of which are devoted to the works of English artists, and the remainder to the Vernon Collection.

Both the *Italian Opera-houses* have brought their respective seasons to a close. The last performance at Her Majesty's Theatre was on Saturday the 24th; and the same night concluded the season at Covent Garden. But there were several extra performances, at reduced prices, during the following week.—The only operatic event of any interest as been the appearance at Her Majesty's Theatre, of Madame Fiorentini, who performed the parts of *Norma* and *Donna Anna* with extraordinary success. She is a native of Seville, and married to Mr. Jennings, an English Officer. She received her musical education in London, and made her first public appearance at Berlin only twelve months. She is engaged by Mr. Lumley for next season. Madame Sontag and Lablache are re-engaged; the latter for three years.

Jenny Lind sang at two concerts at Liverpool on the 16th and 19th; the Philharmonic Society of that place availing themselves of her visit for the purpose of embarking for America, having offered her a thousand pounds for those two performances. The first concert was miscellaneous; the second consisted of the *Messiah*, and its proceeds were appropriated to the benefit of the Toxteth Hospital. The popular enthusiasm manifested at these concerts, and when Mdlle. Lind embarked on the 21st, was, even in her own case, quite unprecedented.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of July 30.—REUBEN BROOKS, Regent-street, picture dealer,—DAVID CLEMENT, Neath, Glamorganshire, saddler.—GALE PEASEGOOD, Sheffield, draper.—THOMAS TAPPENDEN, Friendly-place, Old Kent-road, Surrey, tailor.—THOMAS TIBBETT; March, Cambridgeshire, corn factor.—JONATHAN THOMPSON, Wigton, Cumberland, grocer.—ELIZA WAY, West Camel, Somersetshire, miller.—WILLIAM WOODS, Prospect-place, Wandsworth-road, Surrey, builder.

August 2. JOHN APPLEBY, Shincliffe Mill, Durham, miller.—JOHN HANNAH, Huddersfield, cloth draper.—BENJAMIN HOMAN, Westbourne-terrace, Paddington, builder.—EDWARD MCLEOD, Haberdasher's-street, Hoxton, common brewer.—CHARLES NEWTON, Donyfield Mills, Essex.—JOHN GALE PEASEGOOD, Sheffield, draper.

August 6. JOHN GRIFFITHS, Strand, linen-draper.—CHARLES NEWTON, Donyland Mills, Essex, miller.—JOHN PAGE, Sidmouth, Devonshire, butcher.—JOHN VEALE ROWE, Bodmin, Cornwall, builder.

August 9. FREDERICK BENNETT, Clapham, Surrey, soda-water manufacturer.—WILLIAM BRIDDON, Liverpool, manufacturing chemist.—THOMAS CLARKE, Newport, Monmouthshire, grocer.—THOMAS WILLIAM DORNFORD, Suffolk-lane, Cannon-street, City, wine-merchant.—GEORDE WILLIS HINCHLIFFE, Sheffield, manufacturer.—EDWIN HYRONS, John-street, Tottenham-court-road, pianoforte manufacturer.—HENRY CHARLES KNELL, Belvedere-road, Lambeth, timber merchant.—SAMUEL PARNALL, East-looe, Cornwall, grocer.—RICHARD GROVES WARD, Brownlow-street, Drury-lane, currier.

August 13. SAMUEL ADAMS, WILLIAM BRIDGES ADAMS, and GERARD RALSTON, Bow, engineers.—WILLIAM HENRY DE WOLF, Liverpool, merchant.—HENRY EDWARD FORD and WILLIAM REEVES, Leadenhall-street, City, ship-agents.—EDWARD GROUNDS, Wisbeach and Parson-grove, Cambridgeshire, draper.—JAMES HIBBLE, Bishopsgate-street-without, City, oilman.—DANIEL M'INTYRE, Manchester, manufacturing chemist.—JOHN ROBINSON and EDWARD MOORE, Wakefield, Yorkshire, spinners.—JONATHAN STEELE, Plough-road, Deptford, tar manufacturer.—EDWARD STEPHENSON, Richmond, Surrey, builder.—JOHN WHITWELL, Mark-lane, City, corn-factor.

August 16. JAMES GILLETT BEACH, Woolwich, licensed victualler.—FREDERICK MOUNTFORD, Greenwich, stationer.—JOHN NAPOLEON REYNOLDS, Upper-street, Islington, grocer.—JOHN ROBINSON and EDWARD MOORE, Wakefield, Yorkshire, spinners.—JAMES GROOM SHORT, Bell-street, Edgeware-road, iron-founder.—WILLIAM SHROPSHALL, Jun., Congleton, Cheshire, miller.—WILLIAM GOLDFINCH WILLIAMS, Accrington, Lancashire, draper.—ROBERT HENRY WOOD, Birmingham, surgeon.

August 20. WILLIAM GOODWIN, Macclesfield, Cheshire, manufacturer.—JOHN GRAY and ROBERT WILLIAMS, Chester, engineers.—WILLIAM HYMENS, Gateshead, Durham, publican.

August 23. ROBERT BARNARD, Carnaby-street, Golden-square, oilman.—DORINDA ANN BURNETT, Dawley, Shropshire, lodging-house keeper.—JOHN DAVIDSON and RICHARD DAVIDSON, South Shields, butchers.—RALPH DICKENSON, Crook, Durham, grocer.—HENRY EDWARD GERLACH, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchant.—JOSEPH SAMUEL HODGE and JAMES CULPIN, New Oxford-street, tailors.—JOSEPH KIRKLAND, Stockport, Cheshire, joiner.—JANE THOMAS, Brynmawr, Breconshire, grocer.—THOMAS THOMAS, Dudley, Worcestershire, iron-merchant.—THOMAS WILSON, Hill-top, Staffordshire, iron-manufacturer.

August 27. JOHN CHELL, Manchester, oil and colourman.—JOHN KING, East Stonehouse, Devonshire, builder.—JOHN MAINPRICE, Soham, Cambridgeshire, innkeeper.—JAMES ROBINSON, Ripon, surgeon.—HENRY WARD, Holbeach, Lincolnshire, draper.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

August 3.—WILLIAM RIDLER, Cowlersbury, Yorkshire, contractor for public works.

August 21. REUBEN BROOKS, Regent-street, picture-dealer.

THE STOCK AND SHARE MARKETS.

City, Aug. 27.

The English Stock Market has been characterised by some degree of dulness during the month, and the prices which ruled at the date of our last monthly review have not been sustained. The business transacted has not been of an important character, and the extreme fluctuation amounts to scarcely one per cent. Consols were quoted on the 29th ult. at 96⅞ to 97, and from this point they drooped gradually till the 21st inst., when they touched 96. Since then, however, the market has been firmer and looking up, and Consols are now quoted 96⅜ to ½.

The prices of most descriptions of Railway Shares have been well supported during the month, and in many instances an advance in value has been established. The business, generally, has been on a quiet scale, speculators keeping out of the market, and the operations on account of *boná fide* investers being comparatively few.

STOCKS.

	Prices during the Month. Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols	97	96	96⅜
Three per Cent. Reduced	97¾	96⅝	97⅛
Three and a quarter per Cents.	99½	98⅝	99
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860	8 5/16	8¼	8¼
Bank Stock	216	211	216
India Stock, *ex. div.*	271	264	264
South Sea Stock	107⅜	107⅜	107⅜
Exchequer Bills	70*s.* prm.	65*s.* prm	68*s.* prm.
India Bonds	92*s.* prm.	85*s.* prm.	88*s.* prm.

RAILWAYS.

Paid.		Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
100	Bristol and Exeter	64½	62	62
50	Caledonian	7⅝	7⅛	7⅛
20	Eastern Counties	6⅞	5¾	6¼
24	Great Northern	9⅝	8⅜	9⅜
100	Great N. of England, *ex.div.*	241	239	240
100	Great Western, *ex. div.*	59	57	58¾
50	Hull and Selby	97½	96	97
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	40¾	36⅜	40¼
50	Leeds and Bradford	95	91	94½
100	Lond. and Brighton, *ex.div.*	83	80	80
100	London and North Western	112¼	110	111¾
100	Lond. and S. Western, *ex.div.*	64¼	59½	64¼
100	Midland	35	32	33½
17½	North Staffordshire	6⅝	6¼	6¼
33⅛	South Eastern	15½	13¾	15¼
25	York, Newcastle, and Berwick	15	14¼	14¾
50	York and North Midland	16½	15⅛	16⅛

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Aug. 26.

There has been very little movement in the prices of grain since our last review. The tendency of the market in the early part of the month was rather upwards, but this has since received a check from the improved appearance of the weather. Prices at present are quoted just a shade above those which ruled at the end of July. The London weekly averages last announced are as follows:

Wheat, per quarter, 46*s.* 10*d.*
Oats, 20*s.* 6*d.*
Rye, 24*s.*
Beans, 27*s.* 10*d.*
Peas, 28*s.* 1*d.*

Flour, Town made, delivered, per 280 lb., 38*s.* to 40*s.*
„ American, per barrel, of 196 lbs., 23*s.* to 25*s.*

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt.—Waterford, 42*s.* to 60*s.*; Belfast, 38*s.* to 40*s.*
Beef, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.*
Butter, Fresh, per lb., 9*d.* to 1*s.*; Carlow, 1st, 68*s.* to 70*s.*; Waterford, 1st, 62*s.* to 68*s.*; Dutch Friesland, 78*s.* to 80*s.*; Limerick, 1st, 60*s.* to 65*s.*
Cheese, per cwt.—Cheshire, 50*s.* to 54*s.*; Wiltshire, double, 50*s.* to 58*s.*; Dutch, new Gouda, 26*s.* to 29*s.*; American, 30*s.* to 34*s.*
Eggs, per 120, English, 6*s.* 3*d.* to 7*s.*

Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 74*s.* to 84*s.*; Irish, 60*s.* to 68*s.*; Westphalia, 48*s.* to 56*s.*
Lamb, per 8 lbs., 3*s.* 4*d.* to 4*s.*
Mutton, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*
Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Ware, 40*s.* to 70*s.*; Kent and Essex middling, 25*s.* to 45*s.*; Chats, 20*s.* to 25*s.*
Pork, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; American, new, per barrel, 46*s.* to 55*s.*
Veal, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* to 3*s.*

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt.—Ord. to good red Trinidad, 44*s.* 6*d* to 48*s.*; Brazil, 28*s.* to 28*s.* 6*d.*
Coffee, per cwt.—Good ord., Native Ceylon, 43*s.*; Mocha, 63*s.* to 65*s.*; St. Domingo, 39*s.* to 42*s.* 6*d.*; Batavia, 35*s.* to 35*s.* 6*d.*
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal mid. to fine white, 10*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.*; Madras, 8*s.* 6*d.* to 9*s.* 6*d.*
Sago, per cwt.—Pearl, 21*s.*; Sago flour, 16*s.* 6*d.* to 18*s.*

Sugar, per cwt.—Lumps, 50*s.* to 51*s.* 6*d.*; British West India, good grocery, 37*s.* 6*d.* to 38*s.* 6*d.*; Mauritius, brown, 28*s.* to 33*s.* 6*d.*; Brazil, ditto, 32*s.* to 35*s.* 6*d.*
Tea, per lb. (duty 2*s.* 1*d.*),—Ord. Congou, 11½*d.*; Souchong, com. to fine, 11*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*; ord. to fine Hyson, 1*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; Imperial, 1*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*

Candles, per 12 lbs. 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* | Coals, per ton, 13*s.* to 20*s.* 6*d.*

OILS.

Pale Seal, per 252 gals., 36*l.*
Sperm, 83*l.* to 84*l.*
Cod, 34*l.* 10*s.* to 35*l.*

Palm. 28*l.* to 29*l.*
Olive, Gallipoli, 43*l.*

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Monthly Supplement to "*HOUSEHOLD WORDS*," *Conducted by CHARLES DICKENS.*

THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1850.] FROM THE 28TH AUGUST TO THE 28TH SEPTEMBER. [PRICE 2*d.*

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

HIS Excellency Baron Haynau's appearance in London at a season when, according to Horace Walpole, absolutely nothing abides in London but flabby mackarel and wooden gooseberry tarts, will probably be thought by devout believers in "newspaper dispensations" attributable to nothing so much as that fact, and the news-famine prevailing in consequence. Else he would surely have come at the season which extends its welcome to all such visitors; and, feasting, flattered, and caressed, would have come and gone like any other lion. As it was, he stayed but a very short time; and, grateful as news-writers may have reason to be to him, it was difficult for news-readers to peruse "without a feeling of vindictive pleasure" (as Mr. Macaulay remarks of the mobbing and flight of Judge Jeffreys) the mobbing and flight of Baron Haynau. In brutality to gentle women, and cruel ferocity to noble men, the General takes rank above the Chief Justice; for Jeffreys never had an equal chance of glutting his thirst for blood. To have hanged thirteen general officers at Arad, on the same day whose dawn at Pesth had witnessed his brutal murder of the chief magnate of an ancient land, is a chance that falls to few, and perhaps the solitary deed by which Haynau will be remembered. His biography will be easily written. When to the fact just stated it is added that he flogged women for speaking ill of his emperor, and that after his emperor had rewarded him with dismissal, he was pelted out of England in disgust by a parcel of brewers' draymen, history will have closed its record, contemptuous but not unsalutary, of his Excellency the Baron Haynau. It will hardly trouble itself to inquire whether he passed from his retreat in the dust-bin to the repentant arms of his imperial master, and exchanged the drayman's broomstick for a marshal's baton. His flight from Bankside will be the culminating point of his career.

Of other home incidents there are not many that call for remark, unless exception be made for another batch of Popish converts, including a weak-minded lord, the relative and the sister-in-law of a protestant bishop, two well endowed vicars, a richly-beneficed rector, and a few young sentimental lovers of Roman Catholic fopperies. These Puseyite secessions to Rome are to be regarded with no feeling but of satisfaction by all good Protestants. The danger is not from those who go, but from those who stay. The difference is between a fair and a treacherous enemy; and, as the good Arnold says, we would honour the one and hang the other. To take a notorious instance. Mr. Allies, the vicar of Launton, has only held his post in the English church (to the disgrace of those who for the last four years have suffered his continuance there), in the hope and with the purpose of betraying it; and there is really nothing in the fact of his now openly joining Rome, but a gratifying confession of the failure of his treachery. The heart of the great body of the English people was in our judgment never sounder in regard to all such matters than it is at present. There would be more danger in the secession of one member of the sturdy, thinking, middle-class population, than in fifty such apostacies as those of the latest batch recorded. Our only desire is that people who still remain in the English church with the hope of obtaining what they call self-government for it, may follow their friends as fast as possible. Self-government means independence of state-control, and independence of state-control means uncontrolled domination, and uncontrolled domination is popery. "The system of mixed education," says the address just published by the Roman Catholic synod at Thurles, with more candour than its writers probably intended, "may have been devised in a spirit of generous and impartial policy; but the statesmen who framed it were not acquainted with the inflexible nature of our doctrines." That is perfectly true. There is no middle course for the devout adherents of Rome, nor is there any middle point of compromise for her Protestant admirers. There is no elasticity, no adaptability to progress, in her doctrines or in her institutions. Poor Pio Nono tried it, and found them "inflexible;" and now his Holiness sits in St. Peter's chair with his brain half shattered by the attempt. The big manly voice that at the outset of his pontificate sounded like a new evangel, has dwindled back to the old childish treble about miracles and mothers of mercy. His great acts since he resumed his seat have been three. He has satisfied the doubts of true believers as to the immaculate conception, he has recognised the miracle of the picture that winks its bare-faced eyes at Rimini, and he has denounced all education over which the Romish Church shall not be suffered to sit supreme.

Very humiliating is it to have to add that the latter decision directly affects these islands. The Synod of Irish priests at Thurles, becomingly presided over by a prelate-editor who had denounced the astronomy of Galileo and Copernicus as an insult to the wisdom of Moses and the son of Sirach, has implicitly obeyed its infallible Head, and the Queen's Colleges are condemned. It is said that the condemnation passed by a majority of only one; and that one a substitute for an ailing bishop, craftily provided by Doctor M'Hale; but in the present temper of the Pope this will matter little. The mischief is done, and is likely to get all possible help and confirmation from the College of the Propaganda. *Quantum valeat*, the decision may be taken as settled. The Irish Roman Catholics, then, are to be taught on Roman Catholic principles, or not to be taught at all. Newton is to be filtered through Dens, Herschell through the learned primate Cullen, the text of Plato through the glosses of M'Hale, and politics and history through the Index Expurgatorius. Their science and astronomy, as well as their history and morality, are to be strictly orthodox; and what this kind of orthodoxy means, a dispute now raging in France explains to us. The Archbishop of Paris,

alarmed for the liberties of the Gallican Church, puts under censure a newspaper famous for its sympathies with the Church Ultra-Montane. The newspaper protests against the censure; appeals to the Pope; and demands judgment whether its doctrines have not been such as are justified by Papal authority. But while the protest is on its way to Rome, a brief of the Holy Father, decisive of one of the questioned doctrines, is already on its way to the Bishop of Rimini. By this brief, Pio Nono gives a crown of gold to the miraculous picture; and so settles that point, which may be said to involve the doctrine of mechanical forces. The others are moral and historical. The newspaper asks the Holy Father if the Inquisition was not a perfectly justifiable mode of protecting the privileges of the Church, and if the Church did not strictly observe the limits of Christian duty in punishing rebellion to her faith by a St. Bartholomew massacre; nor does it seem possible, upon these points, to doubt the Holy Father's reply, when we know that already there has been bestowed upon this humane public instructor and questioner of his Holiness, "in testimony of his satisfaction, a beautiful medal struck in commemoration of his return to Rome." This being the character, then, of the teaching, historical, moral, and scientific, at present in highest favour at Rome, it need hardly excite surprise that the Queen's Colleges have been denounced. It is quite certain that such science, morals, and history, would be scouted there. What then? Of course there must be science, morals, and history, adapted to Roman Catholicism; and a Roman Catholic University is consequently to be founded, self-endowed, and self-supported. In other words, a country reported to be starving is to accomplish, for the obstruction of education, what the same country in its most lavish repeal-rent days was unable even remotely to contribute to, for the promotion of education. "We have within ourselves," says the Synod, again a little over-candid, "and in the persons of our brethren who are scattered, &c., ample resources, zeal, learning, talent, and *the pecuniary means*, for the accomplishment of such an object." One may imagine a good many people in England somewhat startled at this announcement; and disposed to think it a little hard that, since ample pecuniary means are within reach of Irish Roman Catholics for the perpetuation of priestly bigotry, English Protestants should be required to contribute thirty thousand pounds a-year for the rearing of priestly bigots. Thus the Maynooth question, and several others, may happen to be involved in the setting up of this new University! Not two years ago the Vicar-General of Ardagh appointed the *Te Deum* to be sung within his diocese, for the Pope's denunciation of the "Colleges of the Godless;" and Protestant thanksgivings will be not less loud, and much more reasonable, when the Money of the Godless comes to be treated in the same way. It is pleasant meanwhile to note that the authorities of the Colleges gather courage, as their opponents wax in insolence; and that the temporary injustice done to Mr. Vericour has been already promptly redressed.

The same journals which describe the proceedings of the Synod, contain sundry petitions of Irish proprietors to be relieved from the tyranny of the poor law inquisition; nor have the priestly denouncers of the Queen's Colleges been the least vehement opponents of the Queen's poor-law. The moral of this points the difference between money to lift the masses from ignorance, and money to keep them in idleness. The one is contemptuously scouted at our hands, and the other greedily clamoured for. At the same time the opportunity, which might have been turned to noble profit by such an organisation as that of the New Tenant League, bids fair to be lost by obstinate adherence to impracticable schemes. Nothing will content its leaders but to settle by statute the valuation of rent, which is about as reasonable as it would be to settle wages and prices in like manner. Rational men turn from such mischievous proposals to wait patiently the working of the Encumbered Estates Act, to strive for amendments that shall give it greater efficacy, and to found upon it hopeful anticipations against the still continuing miseries of rack-rent, and indiscriminate eviction. Even limited as it now is, it has helped to rid us of not a few of those Irish landlords with the name and nothing else, with the means of the poor and the waste of the rich, with the duties of one condition and the necessities of the other, who have been the bane of the country. Nor does there seem reason to doubt Lord Clarendon's recent averment at his progress in the North, that the promise of a condition of things improving with these changes already begins to show itself in expanding commerce, thriving industry, and restored and rational tranquillity, at least in those portions of the Island most distant from the site of the Synod.

The vice-royal progress in the north of Ireland, the royal progress through Castle Howard and Holyrood to the less sophisticated enjoyments of Balmoral, and the various gatherings and feastings held in consequence, may be passed with this brief mention: pausing only to remark the hearty welcome with which Sir James Graham greeted Lord Carlisle as he passed through Cumberland in returning from attendance on Her Majesty. The key of that nobleman's character throughout life, he said, on the occasion of a public meeting, had been sweetness and kindness of heart. Other men (and particularly he alluded to the man most dear to him, who had lately passed to his account) had surrendered their early opinions only to the force of reasoning, and the slow induction of argument, and so exposed themselves to the charge of inconsistency. But Lord Carlisle's kind sympathies and generous feeling towards the great masses of his countrymen had induced him, from his first appearance in public life, to take the very course to which in later days other men had arrived; "and," added Sir James, with a certain sly humour amid his cordial warmth of eulogy, "his kindness of heart and generosity of feeling had stood in the place of reason in the course he had pursued." This was the substance of a speech which we find it very pleasant to record. And it reminds us of another which ought to have mention also. Opportunity was taken at Edinburgh to get Prince Albert to lay the stone of the New National Gallery, when he "improved" the occasion by an extremely graceful and pretty little address. It would seem that an old parliamentary grant for the encouragement of Scotch manufactures and fisheries has fallen into arrear, from the fact of those fisheries and manufactures sufficiently encouraging themselves; whereupon, this arrear being now appropriated to the building of a National Academy of Art, the Prince draws from it the moral of a healthy national progress, as exhibited in the ruder arts connected with the necessaries of life first gaining strength, then in education and science supervening and directing further exertions, and finally in the arts which only adorn life becoming longed for by a prosperous and educated people. That was doubtless true and ingenious; and the Prince has probably since heard, amid the healthy heather of Balmoral, that a prosperous and educated people have a strong taste for nature as well as art, and are given to be extremely jealous of encroachment of any kind on their parks and pleasure grounds. For, advantage having been taken of the Queen's holiday to take possession in her name of a part of the holiday ground of her subjects in St. James' Park, very reasonable protests are rising on all sides, such as neither Queen nor ministry will be wise to

disregard. One of the most profligate proposals of last Session for some six and twenty thousand pounds for "the improvement of St. James' Park," met with too cold a reception to be pressed upon the house; but the sufficiently scandalous sum of eleven thousand pounds which *was* voted is evidently serving for a commencement; and the improval of the park, unless a sharp watch be kept upon it, is not unlikely to mean the adornment of the Queen's palace with a garden abstracted from the park, shut out from the public, and devoted to the royal nursery. But the public as well as the ministers are placed upon their guard, and in sufficient time.

So let us hope, are the city merchants to the danger of a continued inadequate water supply in the heart of London; seeing that a hundred thousand pounds were sacrificed at a fire in Mark Lane the other day, when hardly as many sixpences need have been lost if water for the engines could have been obtained. So, let us add with no inconsiderable pleasure, are a class of people that required even severer caution and warning than ministers, merchants, and rate-payers. In Edinburgh, just after the Queen's visit, the responsible officers of the Glasgow and Liverpool steamer Orion, wrecked in the summer off Portpatrick with a loss of more than fifty lives, were pronounced guilty of criminal negligence by the High Court of Justiciary, and sentenced, the captain to eighteen months' imprisonment, and the mate to seven years' transportation. The case against both admitted of not the least doubt. The defence set up involved the old artifice of an attempt to discredit the compasses, and to prove a sudden inset of the tide; but the jury had not the least hesitation in fixing on the real culprits. If a doubt rest upon the verdict it is that the captain was not entitled to the comparative mercy of his lighter sentence. Assuming the correctness of the nautical testimony, he had for several weeks been steering a course notoriously unsafe, for the sake of a wretched and quite worthless advantage in point of time; and, though the mate bettered his master's recklessness when left in sole charge of the ship, the master continued as responsible for the peril incurred on that familiar coast, in that calm sea, on that lovely summer night, as the man who stood at the wheel when the danger came. What remains in the way of example, after unrelenting enforcement of the punishments awarded, it will become the Board of Trade to look to, after consulting certain recent acts of parliament. Had the boats been found efficient, and the discipline of the ship proved equal to the occasion, the terrible scene of shipwreck might have been deprived of nearly all its horror. It is perhaps hardly disconnected from this subject to add a word on the fate of the wretched man who destroyed himself in a balloon and pony ascent from Bordeaux the other day; and in the death of the poor child who tumbled on his head instead of his heels, in posture-making with his father, à la Risley. There is of course no effectual protection against incidents of this kind but in the refusal of the pleasure-seekers, for whom they are invented, to find pleasure in such unworthy excitements. It is perhaps some set-off, however, for the discredit of the victim in the balloon case having been an Englishman, that the holiday-makers for whom he put his life in peril belonged to another country. Mr. Gale would hardly have crossed the channel with his pony, if Cremorne had encouraged him to stay here; or if Mr. Green's reception, in his like attempt at Vauxhall, had been a little more brilliant than it happily proved to be.

The results of the harvest generally are up to this period better than had been looked for, and the potato panic has ended in a not worse supply than that of last year. The country is prospering, notwithstanding that particular classes, manufacturing as well as agricultural, feel the pinch of the transition state through which it is passing to what we hope is the sure promise of a yet solider and more enduring prosperity. Lord Brougham, in the interval of a little illegal amusement with which he has been disporting himself in Westmoreland, dolefully warns the world of the unpromising condition of law in general, and of matters of reform that have lately been taken too much out of his hands; but the world enjoys its summer holidays, does not seem to lose heart, and is doubtless very far from despairing of that good coming time which is to bring even popular education and law reform. It would appear at the same time very certain that Cambridge University will contribute little to either by the member she is about to elect to represent her interests in Parliament. What those interests can be supposed to be, we must infer from the fact that Sir John Herschell declines to represent them; and that the race is to be run between a man of John's and a man set up by the smaller colleges, whose bigotry at least ought to bring them in neck and neck, whatever their college votes may do. The Johnian is for going back to protection, and so is the man of the smaller colleges. The Johnian will have nothing to do with the Jew, neither will the man of the smaller colleges. The Johnian will fight tooth and nail against University Reform and the Educational Privy Council, and so will the small colleges man. Both are high wranglers, both are decent lawyers; yet never were tweedledum and tweedledee committed to more mortal difference than that which rages between Mr. Cowling and Mr. Wigram. Friends of the University say it has all arisen from the contest starting up in vacation, when only the nobodies are in residence, and when the Master of Trinity is on his travels; but a somebody might surely have been summoned, and waited for, if that were all. Certain is it, we must admit, that London could not have supplied him, unless a police magistrate would have served; for, since Baron Haynau went so suddenly away, these excellent individuals, and the objects of their judicial care, have had the metropolis almost exclusively to themselves. Somewhat fantastic, too, have been their decisions now and then. While a beershop-keeper was fined 5*l.* the other day for selling beer on a Sunday morning, the captain of a steamer was fined only 3*l.* for recklessness that had nearly caused a frightful loss of life; and a "fashionably dressed" ruffian who had rioted in a theatre, and flung an enormous cauliflower in the face of one of the actors, was simply asked to put in bail for future decency. Thus fine by degrees, and beautifully less, justice is apt to grow. On the other hand we have to record our gratitude to one of these gentlemen for having pithily condensed into two lines the philosophy of street-music. It was a case of Scotch bagpipes, which have been lately added to other similar instruments of musical torture; and the defence being that the players got their living by playing on the bagpipes, Mr. Hardwick remarked that "they must not adopt such a mode of getting their own living as would hinder other people from getting theirs." Having touched on legal matters it may be worth while to glance at a Dublin Exchequer Court insurance case, in which the amount of money involved by the verdict turned out to be not greatly more than double the amount that had to be paid to the special jurors in consequence of the trial having been spun out to the enormous length of thirty-one days. A perfect sea-serpent of a trial!

We began with Haynau, and may end with the monster of the deep; adding a word or two on another kind of monster. The sea serpent appeared on the Irish coast just as Haynau arrived, and as the Python formerly visited a land more tranquil. The latter was deemed worthy of a god's intervention and

vengeance; a brewer's drayman sufficed to lodge Haynau in a dust-bin; and for the third the issue as yet seems doubtful. First, he was first seen scratching himself against a beacon-light off Courtmaskerry; then he was shot at while roving about Ballycotton Bay, electrifying small fish and Irish blue-jackets; and when last beheld, was reported to be "very like a (bottle-nose) whale." Clearly he is at least a harmless reptile, and his annual visits promote what Dr. Johnson calls the harmless stock of public pleasure. It would be well if all human specimens of the reptile class were equally so. Mr. Feargus O'Connor's annual visits at Nottingham, for example, are quite another matter; for though there is farce enough in his proffered resignation of his seat to the electors and non-electors of the place, there is a good deal of tragedy in the kind of advice which he has the infamy to proffer along with it. On this last occasion he told the mob who had gathered round him that an English merchant or capitalist was one who traffics on the blood, marrow, and sweat of the people; and that the houses of parliament had no other use or intention than to suck the blood, the meat, and the marrow out of the people. There was no law, he remarked, for the poor. It was safer for a rich man to shoot at a poor man's head, than for a poor man to shoot at a rich man's hare. He singled out some neighbouring manufacturers by name as employing five thousand hands a-day, as being tyrants over that multitude of men, and able to give themselves at once a profit of 250*l.* a-week by reducing wages to the amount of twopence daily. Without an allusion to his own starving victims at Snig's End, he had the effrontery to protest that he had himself spent a hundred thousand pounds in elevating the position of the working-classes; but this piece of impudence was too braggart to meet with other than a cool reception, even from the tools and idiots who hurrahed him. He proceeded to describe himself as the special object of government persecution in this country, and declared that for anybody to have had a hand in hunting him down was certain to insure that person's immediate distinction. In this way he accounted for the promotion of Lord Campbell and Sir John Jervis to be Chief Justices, and of Sir Frederick Pollock to be Chief Baron; because the first and second had prosecuted him at York and Liverpool, and the last at Lancaster. And truly what followed next of this choice oration seemed to challenge prosecution number four! The orator avowed, with cool deliberation, that the working-classes of England had been defrauded by the legislature of their fair share in the benefits of the steam engine, of manufacturing machinery, and of extended navigation, during the last half century; asserted that if his principles were carried out, the man who now earned ten shillings a-week should earn three pounds; and promised that if he had but the power, he would make the taxes to be not more than four millions a-year. He only waited for a war, he added, to carry out these views. They were simply to be patient till France fell out with England, when it should be his care to enable every man to live comfortably, ay, luxuriously, on the sweat of his brow. The old, reckless, wicked story! Jack Cade the clothier is to dress the Commonwealth, and turn it, and set a new nap upon it. It was never merry world in England since gentlemen came up; but it will come right as soon as seven halfpenny loaves are sold for a penny, and the three-hooped pot has ten hoops, and it is felony to drink *small* beer, and the whole realm is in common, and Mr. Feargus O'Connor's mouth is the Parliament of England, and only his palfry goes to grass in Cheapside. Happily, however, this sort of trash has very few listeners now, and none among the better kind of working men of England. The braggart who uses it has been thoroughly exposed; and his schemes, except by the victims to whom they have brought loss and despair, are scouted and laughed at. Any one who would contrast the miserable dupes with whom he may still be imagined to have influence, with that noble class of thoughtful and sober men whose intelligence protects them against his arts, should consult and compare the views and wishes of English operatives as detailed before the Parliamentary Committee on the Savings of the Middle and Working Classes.

NARRATIVE OF POLITICS.

LORD CLARENDON left Dublin on the 2nd instant for a *Fortnight's Tour in the North of Ireland.* After visiting the Earl of Erne, and spending several days as the guest of the Marquis of Londonderry, he arrived at Belfast on the 12th. He made a public entry into the town amidst the most impressive demonstrations by the citizens. On the same day, the Lord-Lieutenant commenced his active progress through a round of invitations—to the Hall of the Ulster Flax Society, to the great flax-spinning mill of Messrs. Mulholland, and other notable bodies or establishments. From the Belfast Board of Guardians he received an address, informing him that the condition of the poorer classes in Belfast is gradually improving, and that out-door relief, with its demoralising effects, has been unnecessary. He congratulated them, in reply, on the fact that during a period of unexampled distress, the poor were maintained without assistance by the Government, and without the imposition of undue burdens on the ratepayers; and added—"I agree with you in thinking that these results are attributable to the industrious spirit and orderly habits which have long characterised the people of this city, and to the employment afforded by the prosperous state of trade and manufactures, which I trust may long continue: but they also reflect great credit upon those who are charged with the administration of the Poor-law in Belfast." In the evening a great banquet was given to Lord Clarendon at the Music Hall. He rode to the place of meeting in General Bainbrigge's carriage drawn by six horses, a military escort preceding him, and the streets crowded by acclaiming thousands. He was received at the Music Hall by the Corporation in their robes of state; the Mayor preceding him into the dining-room, and as he took his seat the bands played "God save the Queen." The guests included men of all creeds and political shades: near to the Mayor were seated the Bishop of Down and Connor, the Earl of Erne, the Marquis of Londonderry, Mr. Sharman Crawford, M.P., and Mr. N. Alexander, M. P. The notable speech after dinner was that of Lord Clarendon himself, in acknowledgment of his own health, "which was drunk with hearty and prolonged enthusiasm, the bands playing 'St. Patrick's Day.'" He dwelt in glowing language on the returning tranquillity and dawning prosperity of the country: "Among the most agreeable signs of improvement which have of late taken place in this country, I rank the fact that almost all men in Ireland appear to recognise the folly and uselessness of those political differences which have too long destroyed confidence, scared away capital, and fostered a spirit of animosity among the population. I do not, of course, allude to the legitimate discussion of political questions—the birthright of British subjects—which has utility for its basis and the public good for its object. I allude to that agitation which is carried on, not for the public interest, but for individual purposes; and I am happy in being able to appeal to this enlightened assembly whom I have the honour of addressing, whether, in this respect, a vast improvement has not taken place—whether a period can be recollected less characterised by scheming agitators than that of the two years which have just passed?" He paid a special compliment to Belfast, on her improvement in manufacture and art, and remarked the improved moral and social

character of the people of Ireland in general. One million sterling, he observed, had been already advanced under the Land Improvement Act, and the reports from the Commissioners of public works showed how well the example of improving landlords had been followed by improving tenants, and how important to the labouring classes was regular employment with money wages; "I certainly was grieved at seeing to-day large bales of flax —Russian and Dutch—that might have been replaced by Irish. I regretted the sight; still, it is gratifying to know that attention is being generally turned to the cultivation of flax in this country, and that owners and occupiers of land are beginning to understand how greatly their interests will be promoted by their contributing to advance the national manufactures. I regard the present movements in this direction as hopeful; and I look forward to a time when the advantages will become fully apparent, and when the interests of agriculture and manufactures will be interwoven and brought together into harmonious action." He then pointed out the beneficial working of the poor law throughout Ireland; and concluded with a compliment and an advice to the Irish landlords:—"With respect to the landlords of Ireland, I would take this opportunity of saying that they have been most unjustly condemned as a class. They have no due allowance—I might almost say no allowance at all—for the unavoidable difficulties of their position. I have the pleasure of being personally acquainted with many landlords, who, for kindness and attention towards their tenants, and who, for the zeal and untiring assiduity with which they perform the duties properly devolving upon them, are second to none in the world, and are deserving of the highest commendation. Among a class so numerous, I am well aware that there must be some bad men; but it is the conduct of a good man that will prevail, and I believe such conduct is prevailing. I believe the time is not far distant when the evils of absenteeism will be fully recognised in their true light; and when it will be seen that there is no supervision equal to that of the owner of the soil, and that the landlord will be rewarded more fully in witnessing the welfare and social comfort of his tenantry, than in spending their proceeds in his own pleasures and enjoyments elsewhere."

The statutes which constitute "*The Queen's University in Ireland*" have received her Majesty's sanction, and are now in full operation. The Earl of Clarendon has been appointed Chancellor, and a Senate is constituted, consisting of seventeen eminent individuals of different denominations, who represent generally the various departments of literature and science, medicine, and law. The Chancellor and the Senate appoint examiners, and grant degrees in art, medicine, and law, to the students in the three Queen's Colleges of Belfast, Cork, and Galway.

The Council of the *Tenant League*, now sitting in Dublin, have published the weekly report of their proceedings, with an address organising the movement. They have resolved to take steps for "systematically extending the principles and influence of the Tenant League, by holding sittings of the Council successively and at short intervals in various parts of the country; and, if the friends of tenant right in each district approve it, by holding public county meetings at the same time and place."

The sittings of the *Prelatical Congress at Thurles* terminated on the 10th; but its proceedings, it appears, are not to be promulgated till they have been submitted to, and received the authorative sanction of, the Holy See. Archbishops M'Hale and Slattery have refused to accept the appointments, conferred on them by the Government, of visitors to the provincial colleges in their respective dioceses.

The "Synodical Address of the Fathers of the National Council of Thurles, to their beloved flock the Catholics of Ireland," has been published in Dublin, in the shape of a pamphlet. The Colleges are violently denounced, and the Roman Catholic priesthood are called upon to abstain from connexion with them. But the authority of this manifesto is doubted; it being said that on certain points respecting the Colleges, the opinions of the bishops were so nearly balanced as to produce a majority of one only.

Mr. Feargus O'Connor went through his annual form of tendering his *resignation to his contituents* at Nottingham on the 2nd instant. The meeting was far from numerous, and his reception rather cool. He expatiated on his services. During the thirty years of his political life, he had toiled against more antagonism than any man that ever came before him, or than, he trusted, any man that came after him would ever be compelled to encounter. He knew that, Nottingham being an important town, all who had represented it before him had received their reward. Lord Denman was Lord Chief-Justice; and Sir J. C. Hobhouse, who, when member for Westminster, said that he should like to turn the Thames into the House of Commons—Sir John, who was then a revolutionist, was now a Minister of the Crown. But did they suppose that, to be Lord Chancellor, or Prime Minister, or Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, or Governor-General of India, would induce him to give one single vote that was opposed to their interests? As he often told them before, he had never, during his thirty years of agitation, eaten a meal or travelled a mile at their expense, and he had spent over 100,000*l*. of his own money. Did he blame these men for turning round on him? No; he blamed the Chartists themselves. The man who earned 20*s*. looked with scorn on the man who only earned 10*s*., and the man who earned 10*s*. with scorn upon the pauper. If he had his principle carried into effect, they would be able to earn, not 20*s*. or 10*s*., but 3*l*. a-week each. He had created the public mind in spite of all antagonism—he had organised it—and when France fell out with England he would direct it in such a direction as would enable every man to live comfortably, ay, luxuriously, on the sweat of his own brow. (Hear, hear.) Nor was he an upstart democrat. His aged uncle had now lived 52 years in banishment, and was now 90, but was as staunch as ever. His father was immured for seven years in damp dungeons and cells, by which he had been hurried to a premature grave—and all for sake of freedom. He had, therefore, a hereditary right to advocate their cause. Mr. O'Connor went on in this strain for sometime longer; and then one of his supporters, Mr. Sweet moved the following resolution—"That we, the electors, and non-electors of Nottingham, beg most respectfully to tender our sincere thanks to our distinguished representative, Feargus O'Connor, Esq., for his unwearied and talented services as a member of Parliament for this town. Notwithstanding the base slanders heaped upon him by a hireling and corrupt press, and the ingratitude of a portion of the working classes; we beg to assure him that our confidence in him remains unshaken; therefore, we most earnestly request him to resume those duties which he has so ably performed, with honour to himself and satisfaction to us." Mr. Sweet then went on:—"If it is your pleasure that Mr. O'Connor should retire, he is quite willing to do so; but if it is your pleasure that he should go back to battle with thieves—they are theives—they pass acts that rob us, and they are thieves—if it is your pleasure that he should go back to battle with them upon their own platform, he is fully prepared to do so." The resolution was carried almost unanimously; and Mr. O'Connor having briefly returned thanks, called for three cheers for "the Charter, and no Surrender," and also three groans for the Whigs. This was done with considerable spirit, and the meeting broke up.

The *Freehold Land Societies* are continuing their operations. On the 16th the Uxbridge Society took possession, with public celebrations, of eleven acres of fine meadow-land near the town; which will give sixty-four or sixty-six votes for the county of Middlesex to the shareholders. On the same day the Westminster Society took possession of thirty acres of land at East Moulsey; for which they have given 4700*l*., and by which they will gain about two hundred and sixty votes for West Surrey.

The *Election for Poole* terminated on the 24th, by the return of Mr. Seymour, the Free Trade Candidate, who beat his protectionist competitor, Mr. Savage, by 188 votes to 167.—A keen contest is going on for the representation of *Cambridge University*, in the room of Mr. Law, between Mr. Cowling, and Mr. Wigram. The day of election is not yet fixed.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

A YOUNG man named John Ellis, storekeeper to the "General Palmer," was *Murdered in New Zealand* on board that vessel while lying in Port Nicholson, in April last. The ship was laid up in that port in consequence of her leaky condition, and the crew had left her. Palmer had charge of all the stores; and was in the practice of coming on shore every morning to transact business with Mr. Bethune, a merchant and agent of the ship residing in Wellington. He became acquainted with four men, named Good, *alias* Henderson, a deserter from the 65th regiment; Coslin, Jones, and Thompson, and they frequently visited him on board ship. He was missing for a week, and Mr. Bethune, fearing that he had been the victim of foul play, went on board the General Palmer, and saw Thompson, who, on being questioned, said the shipkeeper and Ellis had gone on shore some days before. Mr. Bethune, having reason to know the contrary, gave Thompson into custody, and upon proceeding into the cabin was annoyed by an intolerable odour, and upon uncovering one of the harness casks, which had contained salt beef, the body of the murdered man was found steeped in brine. The corpse was dreadfully mutilated—the head having been severed from the body. Upon a post mortem examination it was ascertained that he had been disposed of as the Mannings disposed of their victim, O'Connor; he was first shot, and his skull was beaten in by a hammer. Suspicion falling upon the men visiting him, and who were last seen in his company, they were sought; but had absconded. They were subsequently apprehended in different parts of the colony; and, after several examinations, they were all committed for trial at the Supreme Court, which was to hold its sittings in June.

The Irish papers contain many accounts of *Affrays and Disturbances*, caused by the "evictions" which are daily taking place. On the 26th of August an affair of this kind took place near Ballinasloe. It is thus related by the Western Star:—"On Wednesday last, Mr. John Kelly, poor-rate collector, proceeded with three assistants, named Murray, Gavan, and Kenny, to distrain for poor-rates due by a man named Turley—the amount 11*l.* 3*s.* After going on the lands of Ballymana, and seizing eleven head of cattle, several people collected and succeeded in rescuing the cattle, with the exception of one cow. Some blows were given on both sides, when Mr. Kelly and his men were attacked with stones. Murray was struck by a stone on the forehead, which forced the blood through his ears and nose; and Mr. Kelly was hit on the back of the head and some other parts of his body. He had a double-barrelled pistol in his hand, and when knocked down two or three of the 'rescuers' held him, wrested the pistol from his hand, searched his side-pocket for another pistol, which they got, and when taking it out also took 50*l.* in notes, either through mistake or design. So Mr. Kelly states. Mr. Kelly and his party, however, got away, and came into town, when Murray, who received such dreadful injuries, was put into hospital. He is the only support of a widowed mother. We understand that the lands on which the seizure was made were waste, and the cattle found there belonged to a number of poor farmers living in the neighbourhood."

There has been another dreadful case of *Murder in Tipperary*. On the morning of the 29th August, as Thomas Batters, of Clashdrumsmith, was going along the road at Breansha, near Emly, he was fired at from behind a hedge, and was wounded in the wrist and thighs with large shot, making a dozen wounds. The assigned motive was that Batters was employed as caretaker on crops under seizure for rent, and also blamed for entertaining the keepers in his house. The unfortunate man lingered until the following day, when he died of his wounds at eight o'clock in the evening.

Mr. Feargus O'Connor has commenced legal proceedings for the purpose of *Recovering Rents* from the allottees at Snig's End, near Gloucester. On the 28th of August bailiffs proceeded from that city to serve fifty-two writs. The colonists, who had got intelligence of the coming storm, held a meeting on the preceding evening, and concerted their arrangements. On the appearance of the bailiffs they intimated that they would "manure the land with their blood before it should be taken from them." The bailiffs, therefore, retired.

The Captain and Mate of the Orion steamer were tried at Edinburgh, before the High Court of Justiciary, on the 29th and 30th of August. The names of the prisoners are Thomas Henderson and John Williams. It was proved that during the watch of the latter as second mate, the vessel approached closer to the shore than is usual by upwards of a mile; and that this unusual course was taken when the weather was hazy, and against the warning exclamations of the experienced seamen who had the look-out watch: the captain came on deck several times during the second mate's watch, and each time observed both the compass and the ship's position off the shore, which could be distinguished during nearly the whole course: thus the mate was shown to have conducted the ship recklessly, and the captain to have left him uncontrolled in his recklessness. The object was to cut off all corners, and to run a straight and swift course. On the part of the captain it was urged, that the usage in the Liverpool and Glasgow service is, that in fine weather he should retire to rest during the four hours of the second mate's watch, that time including an unhazardous part of the voyage; this usage was proved by several experienced captains and pilots: but all these witnesses negatived the propriety of the captain's retirement in hazy weather; yet the log-book of the Orion enters the weather as "hazy and calm." Moreover, the captain was on board, and supervised the course; so it was urged that he must share the responsibility of it. For the mate it was urged, first, that the course he gave was practically correct—but he was contradicted both by Captain Robinson of the Royal Navy, the hydrographical surveyor of the coast, from whose observations the Admiralty charts are prepared, and by commanders and pilots in the service; secondly, that the compasses were wrong generally—but it was proved that they varied only one point; and thirdly, that they were falsified on this particular voyage by eight tons of iron freight stowed near to them—but it was proved that this particular cause could only vary them two points. At the end of a trial of two days, the jury found both prisoners guilty. The court sentenced the captain (Henderson) to be imprisoned for eighteen months, and the mate (Williams) to be transported for seven years.

A case before the Lambeth Police Court on the 31st of August should serve as a *Caution to Railway Travellers*. A gentleman named Aldridge was summoned by the London and South Western Railway Company for riding in a carriage of a class superior to the one he had a ticket for, on Sunday, the 10th day of August. One of the ticket-porters at the Waterloo Road station, stated that on the above evening, on the arrival of the train, he found Mr. Aldridge with a lady and child in a second class carriage. The gentleman handed him three third class carriage tickets, upon which he asked for 3*s.* more, being the difference between the second and third classes. Mr. Aldridge refused to pay it, asserting that he had been told by the clerk at starting that he might come back in whatever class carriage he pleased. The parties had come from Hampton Court. Mr. Aldridge said he had asked the clerk for two tickets and a half, for self, wife, and child. Was told there were no half tickets. Paid 3*s.*, and asked the clerk were the carriages covered. The answer that he got was, that it was no matter, as he might come back by whatever carriage he pleased. On returning, therefore, as the night was wet, he got into a second class carriage. On arriving at the terminus he was asked for one shilling a head, which he, in common with several others, refused to pay. Mr. Young, superintendent of the London and South Western Railway, said it was quite impossible that the case as stated by Mr. Aldridge could have occurred. The third class carriages were all uncovered on "excursion" days, as the 10th was. The fare to Hampton Court in them was but 1*s.*; in the second class it was 2*s.*, and in that class they had half-price tickets, but not in the third class, and Mr. Aldridge had admitted that he paid only 3*s.* for three people. The magistrate fined Mr. Aldridge 5*s.*, *i. e.*, 3*s.* for difference of fare, and 2*s.* expenses of summons.

William Eli Sandham, a decently dressed young man described as a tailor, was charged at the Thames Police Court on the 3rd instant, with *Stealing a Penny*. A lad named Tighe, the son of a gentleman residing at Stepney, deposed that he was standing the preceding evening in a crowd, looking at the Shadwell regatta, when the prisoner came close to him, and entering into conversation, picked his pocket of a penny, and then made his way out of the crowd. The lad's evidence was corroborated by his companion. A policeman said that in consequence of a communication from the boys he followed and overtook the prisoner. He asked him if he had taken a penny out of the boy's pocket; and the prisoner said, "No, I have not done so." On the way to the station-house the prisoner said he was a tailor out of work, and that he had but 1*s* 6*d*. in his pocket. The prisoner was very much excited at the time. The prisoner: I did not say I was out of work. I said I was not very busy. I am a master tailor, and have work at home. The police constable: I found upon the prisoner 1*s*. 4*d*., and an old penny piece; it was an old penny piece. The prisoner: Did not the youth say he did not know what sort of a penny piece it was? Blake: He first said it was an old penny piece; then he said he did not know. The magistrate said the case was so clear he must commit the prisoner for trial. The prisoner: What, for a penny! It will be the death of my mother; I left her at home very ill. Magistrate: I can't help it. You are committed for trial.

At the Thames Police Court on the 4th inst., Captain Alfred Palmer, master of the ship North Star, appeared to answer the claims of four seaman, Phillip Neale, John Hannagan, Charles Williams, and John Wadler, *for Wages*, on a voyage from London to Mazatlan and back. The case disclosed irregularities during the voyage, which show the necessity of such a measure as the Mercantile Marine Act, lately passed. The vessel sailed in September last from London to Mazatlan, in South America. The crew was engaged at 2*l*. a month for able bodied seamen, and 1*l*. 10*s*. for ordinary seamen, out and home. It appeared from the statements, complaints, and recriminations before the magistrate, that the vessel, during the whole voyage, had been a scene of dispute between the captain and the men, and of a confusion and want of discipline which must have produced constant peril. The captain met the demands of the claimants for wages with charges against them of idleness, insubordination, and desertion, while they retorted with imputations against him of tyranny and oppression. The circumstances are too numerous to be detailed here; but the captain's charges against the men were so far substantiated, that their claims were materially reduced. Their counter complaints against the captain could not be entertained, as the question at issue was merely the amount of wages due to them; but the case showed how much the merchant service stood in need of regulation.

At the Mansion House, on the 4th, Augustus Styles, a chemist, of Camden Town, was committed for trial on charges of *Forging and Uttering* two bills of exchange for 300*l*. and 200*l*., which purported to be accepted by a Mr. Bailey, of Swancombe in Kent, an acquaintance of the prisoner. Styles pretended that he had received the bills from Mr. Bailey in payment for land. Mr. Bailey stated that there was no transaction of the kind, and that his signature had been forged.

At the Marlborough Street Police Court, on the 4th, two respectable young women complained of the conduct of a draper who had a *Ticket-Shop* in Oxford Street. They saw dresses in the window marked "1*s*."; among the lot was one without a price; a man at the door told them that that also was a shilling. The women entered the shop, bought the dress, and put down a shilling; the shopman threw the coin into the till, and then demanded 1*s*. 11*d*. more, snatched back the dress, and refused to return the shilling. The magistrate, remarking that this was the third or fourth case of the kind brought before him within the last day or two, told the young women that their only remedy was a suit in the County Court.

On the evening of the 4th, another attempt was made by the convicts to *Set Fire to Parkhurst Prison*. A warder of the Juvenile Prison, alarmed by a strong smell of burning linen in one of the wards, entered it, and discovered in one of the cells a mass of fire the flame of which was reaching the ceiling. The fire was happily extinguished without further injury; and it was found on examination that a shovelfull of live cinders had been obtained from one of the stoves used for heating irons in the adjoining tailors' shop, placed on the flooring of the ward, and covered with the sheets and bedding of the prisoners.

James Hill, charged with *Forgeries* upon the Austrian Bank to the amount of 15,000*l*., was, on the 5th, committed by the Birmingham magistrates for trial at the next assizes.

At the Richmond Police Court, on the 6th, Francisco Mouhards, a foreigner about thirty years old, was charged with delivering *Begging Letters to the Duchess of Orleans*, and with obtaining money fraudulently. He was sentenced to imprisonment for seven days in the Brixton House of Correction. In his pockets were found a number of letters in English, French, and Spanish, signed "Francisco Michods," "François Michiods," and "Francis Mouhards." They represented that the writer was a native of Caviaca; and that he has recently come from Paris totally destitute of food or lodging, and not knowing a word of the English language, cannot obtain employment. Among them was this pithy epistle to the Duke of Wellington:— "François Mouhards has had the honour to write to his Grace the Duke of Wellington on the 9th of July last, and has had no answer; and he comes to beg to know if his Grace will answer him. London, 6th August, 1850."

Richard Marsh, a beer-shop keeper, was charged at the Wandsworth Police Court, with *Opening his House on Sunday Morning*. A police-officer stated, that on the previous Sunday he saw the defendant's brother standing outside the door; on recognising the witness he gave a signal to the inmates, and on his reaching the door he heard the bolts drawn. He knocked, calling out, "It is the police; open the door." There was a great scuffling, and he heard the defendant ordering some one to run up-stairs. After a while the witness was admitted. He saw several pots, pints, &c.; some of them full, and the froth fresh. He went up-stairs to a bedroom, where he found fourteen persons, some lying on the floor, others in and behind the bed. Some of them had dogs in their arms, and others had children, and all were striving to keep their "armsful" silent. He knew most of the persons present, some of whom were now in court. The defendant said he did not sell any beer. He was anxious to get in his money, and the men only came to pay him; but it should not happen again. The magistrate said it was a very bad case, and unfair to the trade. He would inflict the full penalty, 5*l*., or a month's imprisonment. The fine was immediately paid.

Edwin Mogg, captain of the Cardinal Wolsey, Richmond and Hampton Court steamer, was charged before the Richmond bench of magistrates, at the instance of Mr. G. Scott, Fortescue House, with having *Endangered the Lives of Nine Persons*. It appeared that on the 6th of August there was an amateur regatta at Richmond, where several thousand persons were present in pleasure-wherries, skiffs, and other light boats. In the midst of a crowd of these boats the defendant set his engines in motion, without giving the slightest warning. The steamer came in contact with Mr. Scott's boat and upset it, immersing in the water the nine persons who were in the skiff. Among those who were thus in danger of meeting with a watery grave were several ladies, one of whom sunk five times before she was rescued. Three of their number caught hold of the steam-boat, which they were told to cling to, otherwise they would be cut to pieces by the paddle-wheels. These circumstances being proved, the bench fined the defendant in the penalty of 3*l*.

Edward Bishop, a young man fashionably dressed, was charged at the Southwark Police Court with *Throwing a Cauliflower* on the stage of the Victoria Theatre, and causing a disturbance in the house. Mr. Higgie, one of the actors, said, that on Saturday night, during the farce of the "Mouse," he was concealed under a table in the centre of the stage, while Mr. Forman was on one side, and a lady on the other. He heard an uproar in

one of the private boxes, and on looking out from his hiding-place he saw the prisoner standing up throwing something on the stage, which struck witness on the side of the head a very heavy blow. Finding that it was a cauliflower, he went forward and appealed to the audience, when nearly everybody pointed out the prisoner as the party who had thrown it. The uproar was so great that it was impossible to proceed with the performance, consequently witness went with his pass-key into the box lobby and demanded an entrance into the box where the prisoner was, but they refused to open the door. Mr. Orger, however, forced it open, and insisted upon the prisoner and his companions quitting the theatre. On their refusing to do so, witness seized hold of the prisoner and pulled him out, and handed him over to the custody of the officer. There was another gentleman in the box with two ladies. This evidence was corroborated by Murray, the constable of the theatre. In defence, the prisoner contended that there was no proof that he had thrown the cauliflower, and denied having done so. He called the two females who were in the box at the time. One of them, Mary Ann Williams, said she saw a cauliflower thrown on the stage, within a few yards of the performers. She did not see who threw it. Immediately afterwards Mr. Higgie came into the box and pulled the defendant out very roughly, and in the scuffle made his nose bleed. After Mr. Higgie left the box, he said that he had given the defendant a sound thrashing. Emily Forrester, the other female, said the cauliflower was certainly thrown from their box, but not by the defendant. Mr. Higgie was the *Mouse* at the time, but she did not think the vegetable hit him. The Magistrate said it was quite certain, from the prisoner's own witnesses, that the cauliflower found its way from their box, and he had no doubt the prisoner was the party who threw it. It was a most disgraceful act, and as a caution to others, he should order the defendant to find bail to keep the peace for twelve months. Sureties were put in.

Two boys, named Campbell, dressed as highland pipers, and each provided with a pair of bagpipes, were charged, at Marlborough Street Police Court, with having *Refused to Quit* Suffolk Street, where they were playing, when requested to do so. A clerk to Mr. Garratt, an inhabitant, said, about 11 o'clock the boys put their pipes at work, and kept up such a concert of groaning and screeching with them, that his employer gave him directions to tell them to remove; the witness did so; and the boys refusing to comply with the request, a constable was employed, and they were brought to this court. The boys said they were the sons of a Scotch piper. They got their living by playing on the bagpipes, and they were employed by a lady who liked bagpipe harmony, to play before the door of the hotel in Suffolk Street, where she was staying. The magistrate told the boys they must not adopt such a mode of getting their own living as would hinder others from getting theirs. It would be impossible for professional men or tradesmen to carry on their daily avocations in the hearing of such a din of discordant sounds as would be caused by a couple of pairs of Scotch bagpipes. To the street-musical abominations of the Italian boys had recently been added that of Scotch bagpipers—a kind of concert sufficient to drive invalids and ordinary people crazy. The street musicians must be told that the law obliged them to go away whenever they were told to do so by any housekeeper in streets where they were playing. For the present offence he would inflict a fine of 1*s.* only, which should be made 20*s.* on the next occasion.

A dreadful *Murder and Suicide* were commited at Ballinagh, near Cavan, on the 9th. Dr. Creighton, a gentleman rather more than thirty years old, after practising as a surgeon in Dublin, became the victim of a delusion that his family were in a conspiracy against him. His friends removed him to the country, and settled him in a farm; thinking that the change might tranquillise his mind. Here he lived with an old maiden aunt and a man-servant; recently Miss Faris, a young relative, had been staying on a visit before she proceeded to America to join her friends. Dr. Creighton was now afflicted with a notion that his household wished to poison him; he would refuse food for days, and would eat grass on the lawn: on other matters he appeared rational, and so he was not placed under restraint. On the day above mentioned he went to his aunt's room, said the man was waiting to shave him, and thus got possession of his razors. A little while afterwards, Miss Creighton entered the kitchen, and was horrified by seeing Miss Faris dead on the floor, with her head nearly severed from the body. A train of blood led from the spot to the pantry; and there Dr. Creighton was found just expiring, with a gash in his throat: he seems to have wounded himself while standing by Miss Faris's body, and then walked to the pantry. An inquest on his body found a verdict of insanity.

Lord Brougham was engaged in a Border Fray lately near Brougham Hall, Westmoreland. There is some difference between his lordship and the Eamont and Eden Angling Association, as to the right of fishing in the river Eamont, or the right of fishing there at particular seasons. Lord Brougham has lately asserted his right through his keepers, and has futhermore taken parties of visitors to see the sport. He did so on the afternoon of Monday the 16th; the party, in two carriages, comprising Lord Brougham with his lady, the Marquis of Douro, Lady Malet, and Master William Brougham, with his wife and children. The game-keepers threw their nets; on which a party of ten men in ambush rushed forth, sprang into the water, and began a fierce conflict for the nets. A local constable, formally seized the nets under the Solway Act, which confiscates nets of a certain littleness of mesh. At length the Society's men managed to cut off about eighty yards of the net, and made off.

This matter became the subject of a legal investigation before the county magistrates, at Penrith on the 24th. John Robson, a blacksmith, one of Lord Brougham's men, was charged with illegally using a net of a construction prohibited by the act of parliament above mentioned. Mr. W. Brougham, for the defendant, stated that his brother and a party of friends had gone to the river Eamont on the day in question, with the express purpose of trying the construction heretofore put upon the Solway Act, their notion being that they had an undoubted right to fish in the manner they had done. The bench, however, were of opinion that the charge had been fully made out, and fined Robson 5*l*., which was immediately paid.—John Robson then made a charge of assault against one of the men belonging to the opposite party. After hearing the Marquis of Douro, Mr. W. Brougham, and other witnesses, the Bench gave it as their opinion that a good deal of violence had been used, but as there were cross-charges for assaults, they recommended that all these charges on both sides should be withdrawn. The assault charges were accordingly withdrawn by mutual consent, and so the matter ended. This inquiry excited great curiosity, and the room was crowded with the neighbouring gentry.

Captain Aaron Smith was charged at Bow Street on the 11th, with *Assaulting the toll-keeper of Waterloo Bridge*. It appeared that on the previous day Captain Smith being in a hurry to catch the railway train, and finding the side-gate blocked up by passengers, had endeavoured to pass by the carriage-way. Being stopped by the toll-keeper, he attempted to force his way through, but was repelled and given into custody for an assault. He denied the toll-keeper's assertion that he had struck him, but justified his attempt to pass through the carriage-way. The magistrate fined him 5*l*., but called the attention of the Waterloo-bridge Company to the inconvenience frequently occasioned to passengers by the narrow accommodation at present afforded to them. This has been attended to, and the tolls are taken from foot-passengers on both sides of the way.

A Coroner's Jury, sitting at Mallow, has returned a verdict of *Manslaughter* against Captain Bushe, of the Fifty-ninth Regiment, for killing a little boy by striking him on the head with a whip. The verdict seems extraordinary. From the evidence it was not very clear that Captain Bushe struck the child at all, though one witness alleged that he did so because a dog belonging to him had yelped, and he thought the boy had struck it. On the other hand, surgeons declared that the child died of water on the brain, and that there was no mark of violence on the head or face. The verdict, however, was received with expressions of delight by the crowd.

At the Thames Police Office, on the 18th, John Murphy was charged with being in the Hutchinson's Arms public-house, Devonport Street, with *Intent to Commit a Felony*. The curious point in the case was the discovery of the thief by a cat. Murphy was supposed to have left the taproom late at night; the cat was noticed to be uneasy—rushing at the fire-place, mewing, purring, and exhibiting anger. This induced the publican to look up the chimney; whence he succeeded in drawing down Murphy by the heels: a candle and lucifer-matches were found upon him. It would seem that in other cases the prisoner had robbed public-houses by concealing himself in the chimney at night. He was sent to prison for three months for his concealment at the Hutchinson's Arms.

On the 19th, John Gould was tried for the *Manslaughter* of a child named Towers. The evidence showed that it was the result of accident. Gould, an old soldier, decorated with two medals, is toll-man in the Vauxhall Bridge Road; a window of the toll-house overlooks a lane, apparently little frequented; Gould had been washing a basin with boiling water, and he emptied it out of the window, having no reason to believe at that time that any one was passing. Unfortunately two children, had wandered thither; the scalding water fell upon Towers, and eventually caused his death. Gould offered all the reparation in his power to the parents. Officers in the army gave him an excellent character. He was at once aquitted and discharged.

Mr. Alexander Shiver, a draper residing at Cheltenham, was charged at the Marylebone Police Court, on the 24th, by the superintendent of the Great Western Railway Company's police, with *Throwing a Bottle* from a carriage belonging to an excursion train, in which he was a passenger on the previous day, and wounding James Wise, one of the guards, at the Farringdon station. The defendant admitted having thrown the bottle, but without intending to hurt any one, and was liberated on bail till the wounded man's condition was ascertained. On the following day, Mr. Shiver re-appeared, and the guard, who seemed very weak and had his head bound up, stated the way in which he had been injured. The defendant's solicitor said, that as the occurrence was accidental, and as there was no danger to be apprehended, he trusted the magistrate would permit the defendant to make a compensation to the guard for the injury sustained. The magistrate said he could not consent to any compromise in a case in which the public were materially interested, and enlarged the bail in order that the case might be brought before the magistrates in the part of the country where the offence was committed.

At the Southwark Police Court, on the 25th, a young man named Cornelius Burrell was charged with being *A Suspected Person*, and with loitering about the South Eastern Railway Terminus for the purpose of committing felony. A policeman stated, that the prisoner with several others were in the habit of lurking about the railway, and were a source of great annoyance to the public, particularly on the arrival of trains, and that many robberies of females had occurred, who entrusted their property to those fellows, and in many instances never saw it again. On the previous night the prisoner was hanging about the place, and he (policeman) took him into custody, and locked him up. The magistrate said, that the policeman had no right to proceed in that manner. All that the prisoner was proved to have done was to walk about the place leading to the railway, which was open to every body; and it was not even alleged that any offence had been committed by him. The prisoner was therefore discharged.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

THE ship Indian, *A fine East Indiaman, was Wrecked* on the 4th of April, on her outward voyage from England to Bombay, on the Cargados reef of rocks, near the Mauritius. About eight o'clock at night, when running at six knots an hour, through some mistake, it would seem, in the reckoning, she suddenly struck with a dreadful crash, and almost immediately went to pieces. The loss of life and property was deplorable. A letter from a gentleman on board gives a striking account of the catastrophe, and the sufferings of the survivors:—"We saw in a moment that all hopes of saving the vessel were at an end, as she heeled over to the leeward suddenly, the sea making a clear breach over her every roller. This was the work of a few minutes only. Three parts of the crew were by this time on their knees, crying and making the most frantic appeals to Heaven for aid. All order and discipline were now at an end. The carpenter and two seamen attempted to cut away the masts; but, owing, I suppose, to the excitement of the moment, they cut away the weather rigging only. The masts, of course, went by the board; but, being still attached to the vessel by the lee rigging and falling over to seaward, they served as a battering-ram, beating the vessel to pieces every successive roller. After the first burst of excitement was over, a simultaneous rush was made for the boats; but we found the only one that was available was the starboard quarter boat; the other two had been staved to pieces by the wreck. The captain was not slow in taking to our only apparent chance of escape—the remaining boat; eight of the seamen speedily following him. They shoved off, but pulled back once or twice near to the vessel, asking for water and bread, which, of course, it was quite out of our power to supply them with. He then pulled away altogether, which was the last we saw of him. The ship by this time was breaking up fast—the stern-frame burst out and was thrown up on the starboard quarter; and in a few minutes afterwards she parted amidships, leaving thirteen persons exposed to the fury of the surf on the forepart of the starboard broadside, where we remained till the morning broke. The tide turned about this time from ebb to flood, when the rollers came in with redoubled violence, and dashed the remainder of the wreck into pieces. All were immediately buffetting with the waves. Sharks innumerable surrounded us on all sides, which very much increased the terrors of our situation. Owing to my being hurled on the rocks by the surf two or three times, I lost my senses, and was perfectly unconscious as to what occurred till I found myself resting on a spar with a sailor. I found the ship had gone to pieces, and that five of our comrades had perished. Water surrounded us in every direction, with nothing in view but one or two small sandbanks, and those a long distance off. By night we had constructed a rude kind of raft, on which we slept; but as the tide ebbed we grounded, and, with the exception of our heads, we were literally sleeping in the water, cold and wretched, but still, comparatively speaking, safe. We remained on the raft in this state two days and nights; the sun scorching us by day, and the wind, owing to our being wet, making us dreadfully cold at night. On Sunday, the third day, having found a small quantity of oatmeal, we determined to start for the nearest sandbank. A sixty-gallon cask of beer, two six-dozen cases of wine, a piece of bad pork, and the oatmeal, were the only things saved from the wreck. We turned the raft, and after a severe day's work reached the bank about sunset, and once more put our feet upon dry land. We had only eaten once, and then but sparingly. Thus we lived fourteen days and nights, subsisting on sharks' flesh and the wine and beer we saved. Not a drop of water was to be had. On the 20th of April we saw a vessel to the leeward of us, and endeavoured to attract her attention by means of a boat-hook and a shirt attached; but she did not or would not see us. The next day, about one hour before sunset, another vessel hove in sight, and about the same spot the ship of the previous evening was seen. We again hoisted our signal, and walked about the bank, to show there were living creatures on it. We thought she did not see us; and after taking our allowance of oatmeal and sharks' flesh, we lay down for the night's rest. In a short time, however, we were alarmed by the barking of our dog; and on getting on our legs discovered to our delight a boat close in upon the sands. She belonged to the vessel we had seen in the evening. The mate and one of the passengers went on board that night, and the rest of the survivors were taken off the next morning; when we were conveyed safely to the Mauritius."

The *Bridgetown Emigrant-ship was Wrecked* on the 4th of August, by going upon a rock while off the Banks of Newfoundland. She had on board 300 emigrants from Liverpool to America. The vessel was got off and run ashore between Cape Ballard and Cape Race. The female emigrants were got into boats, and these having been safely put ashore, the boats returned, and eventually, after considerable exertion, the whole of the remainder were saved, excepting three children, who were lost in the confusion, and were supposed to have perished in the ship, which shortly foundered in five fathoms of water, and was a total loss. The poor emigrants lost everything they possessed; many reached the shore with nothing on their persons but their night-clothes. There were several cabin passengers; among them was an episcopal clergyman, who lost property to the amount of 1,000*l*. Amidst their misfortunes, a gang of desperate wreckers visited the spot, and carried off the little property that was cast up from the wreck and washed ashore; everything, in fact, they laid their hands upon they decamped with. The loss of the ship is ascribed, not only to the dense fog and darkness of the night, but in a great measure to the variableness and uncertainty of the currents, together with the force and strength with which they set in towards Cape Race. The vessel was but partially insured.

A Shocking Death at Hastings Castle took place on the evening of the 27th of August. A party of young men and women were amusing themselves with the game of "whoop-hide" within the walls. On the south side of the garden, within the old ruins, there is a fence about three feet high, and a hedge growing outside of it, which serves as a protection from the bow of the cliff, which rises perpendicularly above St. Mary's Chapel, in Pelham Crescent, about 200 feet. In the heat of the chase, and to avoid being caught, a young man named Joseph Beck leaped over the fence, believing that there was a footing on the outside, and fell upon the roof of the chapel, where his body was found frightfully mangled. He was a respectable young man, who supported his widowed mother.

Several serious Railway Accidents have occurred this Month. A roadway crosses the line of the Eastern Counties railway through the fields of a farm on each side, near Colchester. On the 31st August, a waggon with three horses and the driver were engaged carting barley, and were in the act of crossing over for another load, when the railway train dashed into them, smashing the waggon to pieces and dreadfully mutilating the horses. Most providentially the driver, who was riding at the time, just before the engine struck the team had the presence of mind to spring to the ground, but in so doing barely escaped with his life, the engine in his perilous descent catching the flaps of his coat and completely tearing them off. One of the horses was found under the engine, and the others lay helpless on the ground. The passengers in the train were alarmed, and rushed shrieking to the windows, but it does not appear that any were injured.

Another accident occurred on the *South Western Railway* on the evening of the 3rd. inst. Between Esher and Weybridge, the engine-driver espied some moving objects on the line; he therefore shut off the steam and signalled to the guards to apply the breaks; but before they had sufficient time to do so, the engine came in contact with the obstruction in front, which was dashed to pieces, and in an instant portions of flesh and blood were scattered over the driver and stoker, as well as over several of the carriages. It was then ascertained that a great number of sheep had strolled upon the line from one of the adjoining meadows; but owing to the train not being impeded in its progress, the driver proceeded on his journey. Next morning it was ascertained that from twenty to twenty-five sheep had been cut to pieces. The animals, it seems, had obtained an entrance upon the line owing to some defect in palings which surround the meadow where they were at pasture.

Mr. Robert Middleton, a commercial traveller from Manchester, was *Killed* on the East Lancashire Railway on the 5th, while travelling from Burnley to Colne. The train came into collision with a truck, while the gate-keeper at a crossing near the station, Hannay, was attempting to move it out of the way. Considerable damage was done to the carriages, and Mr. Middleton was killed on the spot. It appeared, from the evidence at the inquest, that Hannay was an old man, unfit for his duties, whose wages were only 5*s*. a week, and that when the train approached, no signal had been made to warn the engine-driver that there was danger. The Jury found a verdict of "manslaughter" against Hannay; recommended an improvement on the line at the crossing, and stated their opinion that the gate-keeper and porter were not sufficiently paid to secure the protection of the public.

On the morning of the 9th, the *Dead Body* of a respectably-dressed man was found on the Liverpool branch of the London and North-Western Railway, between Eccles and Patricroft. Both his legs had been cut off by a train passing over him; but, whether he was a person who had been crossing the line, or had thrown himself in the way of a train, with a view of suicide, could not be ascertained. There were no papers in his pocket which could lead to a discovery of who he was, nor has he been identified by his friends.

Lieutenant Gale, the Aeronaut, was Killed on the 9th in the neighbourhood of Bordeaux. He ascended on horseback in his balloon from that place, and reached the ground safely between Merignac and Cestas. He was engaged in exhausting the balloon of the remaining gas, when the peasantry who assisted him succeeded earlier than he seemed to expect in removing his horse. The balloon, disencumbered of the horse's weight, instantly soared aloft, snapping in two a young fir-tree which held the grapnel. Mr. Gale was not in the car, but was lifted up entangled by the ropes, and was presently too far aloft to let go. He held by the ropes while the balloon floated nearly two miles, and dropped either with it or just before it fell: his body was found in a tree, and the collapsed balloon in an adjacent wood. He has left eight children.

A captain of the National Guard of St. Pierre les Calais, named Millien, now on a visit to this country, has been instrumental in *Saving the Lives* of two children, who would inevitably have been lost but for his timely and humane conduct. On the morning of the 14th, M. Millien was passing over the Kingsland bridge, and hearing cries for help hastened in the direction whence they proceeded. Finding that some one was at the bottom of the canal, he immediately plunged in and brought up the body of a child, and hearing that there was another, he made another plunge, and another was saved, in the presence of a great number of spectators, amongst whom was Dr. L. Burchell, of Kingsland Road, whose exertions soon restored the children. It has been the good fortune of M. Millien to have saved twenty-two persons under similar circumstances, and to have been rewarded with the gold and silver medals of the institutions of his country, as the reward of courage and humanity.

A destructive *Firework Explosion* occurred in Spitalfields on the 16th. Mr. Clithero, of Weaver-street, had an extensive factory at the rear of his house; the place was divided into compartments—the mixing-house, the filling-room, and the store-house. Mr. Clithero was employed with a workman in the mixing-house, when, by some means unknown, the combustibles took fire; there was a violent explosion, and the two men were blown out of the building into the yard, terribly burnt. Presently there was a second explosion, the fire having reached the filling-room; and after that the store-house exploded, with a crash and concussion far surpassing the preceding shocks. Houses in every direction were more or less shattered—windows and roofs driven in, and the furniture greatly damaged. The personal casualties were less serious than might have been expected, consisting only of bruises and slight cuts from broken glass. The Fire Brigade report mentions thirty-eight houses specifically, as having suffered; All Saints Church and National School had nearly all the windows smashed; and the greater portion of the large sheets of plate glass in the goods-dépôt of the Eastern Counties Railway, a long distance off, were demolished. The firemen prevented the flames from spreading beyond the ruins of the factory. While one of the engines was hastening to

the place, a youth was knocked down opposite the Mansion-house, and the wheels went over his head and neck; he was removed to the hospital, where he died soon after.

A disastrous *Fire in Mark Lane* broke out on the morning of the 19th, in a house occupied by several firms; thence it spread to Seething-lane, taking firm hold of the extensive premises of Hayter and Howell, army-packers; the roof of the Corn Exchange caught the flames, and half a dozen more buildings were fired. When the Fire Brigade arrived, they devoted their efforts to save the Exchange and those houses on which the flames had not much hold, and in this they succeeded; but the house in Mark Lane and Hayter and Howell's were destroyed. The loss of property has been estimated at 100,000*l.* The premises in which the fire commenced were very extensive, having been formerly used as the town residence of one of the foreign ambassadors. It was erected after designs by Sir Christopher Wren, and presented an example of the magnificence of the early city mansions. Every room was beautifully panelled; the staircase, which was upwards of six feet wide, was formed of carved oak; and splendid specimens of scroll-work adorned the various ceilings. At the rear of the house stood what was formerly the ambassador's private chapel, but of late years it had been converted into a warehouse.

On the morning of the 19th an accident took place on the *Eastern Counties Railway*, whereby nine men lost their lives. Upwards of twenty men were engaged near Brentwood station in ballasting the line; about eight o'clock, they had just emptied a ballast-train; the morning was very foggy; while some of them were on the up-line, an up-train dashed into the midst of them; eight were killed on the instant, and another died a minute after. At the inquest, which terminated on the 23rd, it appeared that the morning was extremely foggy, that the train was not behind its time, and that there had been no negligence on the part of the driver; but sufficient precautions had not been taken to make the driver aware of the obstruction. The jury found that the deaths had been caused by misadventure, and expressed their regret that more caution had not been exercised for the protection of the men employed on the line.

On the night of the 20th, a serious accident happened on the *Great Western Railway*. An excursion train, returning from Bristol, came into collision with a horse-box which had been allowed to remain on the line, near the Wootton Bassett Station. The engine and four carriages were thrown off the line, and overturned, and several of the passengers seriously injured. An investigation took place before the magistrates at Swindon, and William White, the policeman in charge of the station, was convicted of neglect of duty, and sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

There has been *Another Fire at Gravesend;* it broke out about one o'clock on the morning of the 21st, on the premises of Mr. Drasen, a linen-draper in Queen Street, near the market-place, and destroyed these and some adjoining houses. A number of watermen had met together on the previous evening to commemorate a rowing-match for a prize given by the proprietors of the Rosherville Gardens, and these men were assembled, to the number of 150, in an hotel called the Town Arms Tavern, just opposite the house in which the fire took place; and it appears to have been caused by squibs and other fireworks let off by them in the street.

Two steamers have been *Shipwrecked* at the same spot, between the island of Jersey and St. Malo. On the morning of the 16th, the Superb was to have started from St. Helier's on an excursion trip, but in consequence of her machinery requiring repair, another vessel, the Polka, was substituted. It was soon discovered that she had sprung a leak and was fast foundering, but she was kept afloat till she reached some small rocks called the Minquiers, on the coast of France. The anchor was then dropped, and all the people on board, among whom were several ladies, were conveyed by the boats to the rocks; and after passing the night in that situation, they were picked up by the steamer South Western, from Weymouth to St. Malo. On the 24th, the Superb was herself wrecked at the same place, and with a much more melancholy result. She left St. Malo at seven in the morning, and a little after nine, struck on the Minquiers rocks, then under water. A number of the passengers got into one of the boats and put off; but it speedily sank, though in smooth water, and they all perished. Fortunately the tide was falling, and soon left the ship high and dry on the rocks. Signals of distress were made, and after two hours, the survivors were saved by the Jupiter cutter and the Courier steamer. Besides those who perished in the boat, two children were thrown overboard by the shock when the vessel struck. The persons lost were Mr. Gossett, a merchant of Jersey, and his wife; Mr. Jackson, his son and daughter; Mr. Rottenbury, Miss Price, Mr. Sedgwick, and three of the crew. The survivors, about 40 in number, were landed at St. Heliers. An inquiry into this disaster must necessarily take place.

Two infants, of three years and fifteen months old, children of Robert Wardell, a labourer at Wetwang, were *Drowned* on the 23rd. At the inquest on their bodies, their mother gave an affecting account of their death:—"I went to glean in a field of Mr. Hill's, and took my two children with me. I left them under a hedge with some other children, and went off to glean. About 1 o'clock they both came over to the side of the field where I was. I gave them some cake, set them under a hedge, and told them to wait until I got another glean, and then I would take them home. A pond was near where I left them, but it was fenced off. About a quarter of an hour after I went to the place where I had left them, and I said, 'Have I two little bairns here?' as I usually did. I was surprised at not receiving an answer. I then began to look about, and on going to the pond I discovered the legs of one of the children projecting out of the water." A surgeon was immediately sent for, but he was unable to restore them to animation.

The Lille correspondent of the Boulogne Interpreter, states that the child of an English tumbler, named Elliott, was *Killed* while performing there feats with his father. The little fellow upon being thrown into the air from his father's foot, instead of falling upon his feet, by some unlucky movement, fell upon his head, which caused a dislocation of the neck, and, as a matter of course, instant death.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

THE *Board of Trade Returns* for the month ending the 5th August, show a decrease of exportations on comparison with those of August 1849, to the amount of 334,858*l.*; but the exports of the month ending August 1849 were unprecedented, and exceeded those of August 1848 by 2,012,500*l.* The decrease in the present return of exports is chiefly on cotton manufactures and yarn, together about 200,000*l.*; on woollen manufactures, 142,665*l.*; silk manufactures, 18,864*l.*; and on metals, 130,842*l.* On the other hand, there is an increase on linen and woollen yarns, and on raw wool; on machinery, coals, and culm; and on alkali: in the aggregate about 200,000*l.* The total exports during the first seven months of the year were 37,808,072*l.* against 32,879,865*l.* during the same time in last year. Among the imports, those of grain show an advance compared with the same month in 1849, of 500,000 quarters. After a considerable time of stagnation, the consumption of coffee shows a forward movement; that of tea and sugar, continues in its steady line of advance.

The total amount of income-tax paid by the several *Railway Companies* in England and Scotland for the year 1849 was, according to a recent return, 237,909*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*; the amount for England being 218,899*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, and that for Scotland, 19,009*l.* 15*s.* The London and North-Western paid 50,684*l.*; the Great Western, 24,631*l.*; the Midland, 19,438*l.*; the London and Brighton, 17,056*l.*; and the Eastern Counties, South-Eastern, and South-Western, upwards of 16,000*l.*

A notice to the public has been issued from the General Post Office relative to *Sunday Postal Arrangements*. It declares that the regulations which have been

in force since the 23rd of June last are cancelled, and that the regulations previously in force are reverted to. These regulations are as follow:—"All post offices in England and Wales will be closed to the public on Sunday, from ten A.M. for the remainder of the day; except in those cases where the delivery commences between nine and ten A.M., when the office must continue open for one hour after the letter-carriers are despatched; and except also in those cases where the delivery commences later than ten A.M., when the office, having been closed at ten A.M., must be re-opened for one hour after the despatch of the letter-carriers. No inland letters will be received on the Sunday, except such as are prepaid by stamps or are unpaid; for the deposit of which the letter-box will be open as usual throughout the day. Until the closing of the office at ten A.M., or during the subsequent hour after the despatch of the letter-carriers, foreign letters may be prepaid, postage stamps may be obtained, and letters may be registered on payment of the usual registration-fee: strangers, renters of private boxes, and those who reside beyond the limits of the letter-carriers' deliveries, may also, while the office is open, obtain their letters at the office window. Except at the times above-mentioned, no letters or newspapers can be delivered from the office on the Sunday." In consequence of the excellent arrangements to carry into effect the new regulation which came into operation on the 1st instant, for a delivery of letters and newspapers on Sunday mornings before church-time, it appears that this was accomplished to the greatest satisfaction of the inhabitants in every district. According to the accounts from the chief commercial cities, the deliveries were generally completed by about nine o'clock, or ten at the latest, without any trouble, thus affording the letter-carriers the remainder of the day to attend any place of worship they might think proper.

The new *Friendly Societies' Act* contains an important clause, suggested by the shocking murders committed to obtain sums of money insured in burial-clubs. It is as follows:—"That in all societies established under the provisions of this act, or of any act relating to friendly societies, it shall not be lawful for the trustees or other officers of such societies to assure a sum of money to be paid on the death of a child, whether a member of such society or not, under the age of ten years, excepting the actual expenses, not exceeding 3*l.* in case of each child, to be paid to the undertaker or person by whom the burial is conducted, and whose receipt alone shall be sufficient discharge to the society; nor to pay any sum of money which may have been insured and become payable on the death of any member thereof, or of the husband, wife, or child, of any member, unless the party applying for the same shall produce and deliver to the officer a certificate, signed by a physician, surgeon, apothecary, or coroner, in the form annexed in the schedule of this act." The form is to the effect, that death was not occasioned by criminal conduct, and that the party had not been deprived of life by means of any person beneficially interested in obtaining burial money from any society. Such certificate, where it is possible to obtain one, must be delivered, or the officer paying the money will be liable to a penalty of 10*l.* on conviction before a magistrate, one-half of which is to go to the informer.

Cheap pleasure *Excursions by Railway* are becoming more and more common. On Sunday, the 15th, three thousand persons went by the Great Western from Paddington to Bath and Bristol. On the preceding Sunday there was an excursion train from Bristol and other places to Windsor—about a thousand persons were conveyed. This novel Sunday excursion system for the Great Western Railway has roused a great opposition from the clergy of Bath and Bristol; who, headed by the bishop in the Bristol case, have sent remonstrances to the company against the "profanation of the Lord's Day." A deputation from the clergy of Bath, who waited on the mayor upon the subject, spoke of the demoralising effect produced by these excursions, and of scenes of riot and disorderly conduct in the streets by an influx of persons having no regard for the sacredness of the Sabbath, with the temptation held out to townsmen to join in these misdoings.

The Westmoreland and Cumberland Agricultural Society had its annual *Exhibition of Stock* at Carlisle on the 18th inst. After the ploughing matches and other proceedings the members of the Society dined together, the Earl of Carlisle occupying the chair. Among the company were the Bishop of Carlisle, Sir James Graham, M.P., Colonel Lowther, M.P., the Dean of Carlisle, Mr. P. H. Howard, M.P., the Hon. C. Howard, M.P., the Hon. Mr. Gage, Mr. Marshall, M.P., Captain Graham, the High Sheriff of the county, the Rev. Canons Gipps, Percy, Goodenough, &c. The noble chairman in giving "Success to the Cumberland and Westmoreland Agricultural Society," prefaced the toast by an able and pleasant address. He contrasted the old border days with the times in which we live. The time, he said, was not so many hundred years back when the gates of Naworth Castle, as of many other similar strongholds in the country, were only open for men clad in mail or doublets of proof, who perhaps did not wholly abstain from plunder, and who went abroad with a resolution to share what they could take in addition to the produce of the soil. It was not so much that they were intent on careful husbandry or the best manuring, but their thoughts were rather turned to those fat beeves which he would not presume to say they "robbed," but which they "recovered" from their neighbours across the border. Well, they had changed their system since then. There were some who fancied that they still admired those days of yore. He certainly loved their pictorial associations, but he thought upon the whole that we had a much better time of it in the present day. We tilled our lands in safety; we had no "warder on the wall," or "beacon on the hill" to give us assurance that our flocks were not to be carried off wholesale, and that our shepherds might go to sleep in safety. Nay more, we could cross the Scottish border, and make our recognisances across the Solway; we might stretch our videttes as far as Eskdale and Liddesdale, not to burn the beeves or to harry the stackyards, but to examine, it might be sometimes to imitate, those processes of agriculture for which our Scottish brethren had obtained such just celebrity. This seemed to him to be the especial advantage of societies and meetings like the present—that our knowledge might not be confined to what this man might earn in our own parish, or what took place in the next parish, or the next ward, or the next county, but what occurred in the kingdom at large; what invention had been tried and tested elsewhere; what improvements had been put to the actual test of successful operation; what implements had obtained the prize in other districts; what are the best modes of rearing and fattening stock; what pedigrees had been most successful in introducing symmetry of limb and plenty of meat; to show you, in short, how far you ought to rest contented with your present practice, and what you ought to strain at imitating elsewhere. The noble Earl proceeded to say that the great lesson inculcated by the times in which we live was, the necessity of exertion, and of applying judgment and industry to all the processes of agriculture; and that the effects of this lesson was apparent in the improved farming of Cumberland. Independently of having some drawbacks and some difficulties peculiar to their climate and their soil with which they had to struggle, and which he was sure told advantageously for the pith and nerve of their stout northern character, there were other circumstances in their condition which ought to inspire them with good confidence in themselves, for it appeared, in one of the most recent accounts put forth by the Poor Law Commissioners in Cumberland (and he believed that Westmoreland was in nearly the same position), that the poor rates were of a lower proportionate amount than those of any other county in England. They made also an advantageous appearance in all the sanitary statements that had been put forth, and exhibited a very low comparative amount of mortality. Would they not, then, buoyed up by the just reputation of their united counties for the beauties of their natural scenery—for the crystal expanse of their lakes—and for the majestic coronet of their mountains and the sinewy strength of their yeomen, consent to wrestle with the difficulties of their soil as well as they wrestled with one another; and for their bright lasses, whom it was superfluous in him

to praise—for the more important moral and mental qualities which distinguished them—for that sturdy independence which other county men would do well to imitate? In addition to those just titles to praise, those powerful incentives to renown and to virtue, they would also prove by the agency of such a society as that, by the hearty and enlightened co-operation of landlord and tenant, and, above all, by the energies of the labouring population, that the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland would attain a proficiency in agriculture, which would enable them to take the foremost rank in that as well in so many other respects amongst the counties of their native land.—Sir James Graham, in giving the health of Lord Carlisle, said it was not the Cumberland fashion to flatter ministers of the Crown, and therefore he should speak the simple language of the heart. The family of the Howards (to which the noble president belonged) had been for many generations intimately connected with the county of Cumberland. In its various branches, in many generations, the family of the noble president had been distinguished for spotless honour, for social virtue, for public honesty, and for firm attachment to the cause of liberty and popular rights. Neither the favours nor the frowns of the court had been able to seduce or overawe that family. Those were great claims, and the noble chairman was worthy of his descent. He had, by his conduct and demeanour, gained friends everywhere; and though it might be said that one who so succeeded was "all things to all men," yet, in his case, there could be no such unjust conclusion. There had been no man more firm in his conclusions, no man more consistent in his friendships and attachments, no man more sincere and bold in the expression of them. And what was the key of his character? It was sweetness and kindness of heart. And though political allusions were forbidden, they must pardon him for one thing, it struck him so forcibly. Other men, by the force of reasoning and the slow induction of argument, had changed their opinions—amongst them, one dear to him, now gone to his last account. Of them it might be said, that they had yielded at last to reason and had exposed themselves to the charge of inconsistency. Let it be what it might, his noble friend, by his kind sympathy, by his generous feeling towards the great masses of his countrymen, had from his first appearance in public life taken the very course to which in later days other men had arrived, and his kindness of heart and generosity of feeling had stood in the place of reason in the course he had pursued. In conclusion, Sir J. Graham observed, that the present was the first public appearance of the Earl of Carlisle in the County of Cumberland, and called on the company to give him a greeting which he would never forget. The toast was drunk with three times three and loud acclamations.—The health of the landed proprietors of the county, coupled with the name of Sir James Graham, called him forth a second time. He bestowed the highest praise on the agricultural classes of the county. He said, that both the large and small proprietors of the county had shown confidence in agriculture. For every shilling they had expended in improving their property, he believed that during the last thirty years the tenantry had spent at least an equal sum—their industry, skill, and constancy amidst difficulties could not be too highly praised. On the part of the yeomanry he had seen an outlay so judicious, extensive, and productive, as to put to shame the great proprietors themselves. Nor was it confined to them; the great winners at that day's show had been neither landed proprietors nor yeomen, but tenant farmers. He thought, however, the fault of their agriculture was that they ploughed too much. His advice would be to plough less and to graze more. [This remark was received with cheers, mingled with some marks of dissent.] Why, if high farming and good grazing did not pay, scourge crops and bad farming never could pay? It might be said that dairy produce did not answer, and that butter and cheese also, against the introduction of which from abroad there was a considerable protective duty, had fallen in price. If that were so, another article was steadily advancing in price which was closely connected with good farming. He referred to sheep and the value of wool. In the last seven months there had been no less than 41,000,000 lb. imported from foreign countries, as compared with 31,000,000 lb. in the same period of the preceding year. At the same time the declared value of exports from this country of woollen manufactures had been 5,000,000*l.* worth in the last seven months, as compared with only 4,000,000*l.* worth in the seven months of the previous year, showing that there was for wool and woollen manufactures an increase of demand and price. He rejoiced to find, therefore, that there had been established within the last three months a factory for the produce of woollen goods in Carlisle. He concluded by giving "The Tenantry of the County." The toast was acknowledged by Mr. Hodgson, who gave "The Labouring Classes;" and the toast of "The Bonny Lasses of Cumberland," given by the chairman, concluded the evening.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Queen, Prince Albert, and Royal Family, *Left London* on the 27th of August, and arrived the same afternoon at Castle Howard the seat of the Earl of Carlisle, by whom the royal party were splendidly entertained. Next day they proceeded to Newcastle, where they were received at the railway station with cheers, by an immense assemblage; from thence to Berwick where Her Majesty stopped to view the magnificent new viaduct; and arrived in the evening at Holyrood. There was no parade of a public demonstration; no triumphal arches or firing of salute; but the air was rent with the shouts of countless thousands, assembled on the neighbouring heights as the Queen entered the palace of her ancestors.—On the 30th, at an early hour in the morning, Her Majesty and Prince Albert ascended to the summit of Arthur's seat. The prince afterwards laid the foundation stone of the National Gallery, and the ceremony, which attracted an immense concourse of spectators, was very imposing. In the afternoon, Her Majesty visited the splendid new Hospital founded by the late Mr. Donaldson in the suburbs of the city, for the education of three hundred destitute children. She was most enthusiastically received on her route.—On the following morning the royal party left Edinburgh for Balmoral. At every halting-place and point of view during the journey, the people of all ranks crowded to gratify their curiosity or manifest their respect.—Her Majesty has since remained at her Highland home, enjoying with great zest the pleasures of the country. One day the Queen ascended to the summit of Ben-na-Bord, and another day was present at the "Braemar Gathering" a great assemblage of Highlanders, which takes place annually for athletic sports and other pastimes. Prince Albert has amused himself with shooting; his companions in the sport being the Earl of Carlisle and Sir Edwin Landseer. The Duchess of Kent has several times driven from Aberdeen to Balmoral, to join the family circle.

The remains of Louis Philippe were buried on the 2nd inst. Having been removed from Claremont to Weybridge, they were deposited in the vaults of a Roman Catholic chapel attached to the residence of Miss Taylor. The obsequies of the ex-monarch were conducted with the utmost simplicity, and there was an entire absence of that state which might have been expected to mark the funeral procession of an individual of such distinguished rank. At nine o'clock in the morning, mass was celebrated in the chapel by the late King's chaplain, Dr. Whitty, the Vicar-General of the London district, and several other ecclesiastics. After the conclusion of mass, the coffin was borne from the chapel to the vault, when it was placed in the tomb which had been erected in the centre of the vault, and immediately under the dome of the chapel. When the coffin had been deposited in the tomb, the Count de Paris, the Dukes de Nemours and d'Aumale, and the Prince de Joinville, entered the vault, and the Rev. Dr. Whitty read the prayers for the dead, the other clergymen giving the responses. The tomb was afterwards sprinkled with holy water by the officiating priests, the royal princes, and the other persons present. The sons and grandson of the late King then knelt down and fervently kissed the coffin;

they were most deeply affected, and it was not without some difficulty that they were induced to quit the vault. Upon the slab covering the tomb in which the coffin was deposited, was placed the subjoined inscription, surmounted by the arms of the Orleans family and the royal crown of France :—

Depositæ jacent
Sub hoc lapide,
Donec in patriam
Avitos inter cineres,
Deo adjuvante, transferantur
Reliquiæ
LUDOVICI PHILIPPI PRIMI,
Francorum Regis,
Die Augusti xxvi.
Anno Domini MDCCCL.
Ætatis 76.
Requiescat in pace.

The following inscription was engraved upon a silver plate on the lid of the coffin :—

LOUIS PHILIPPE PREMIER
Roi des Français,
Né à Paris
Le 6 Octobre, 1773;
Mort à Claremont
(Comté de Surrey, Angleterre),
Le 26 Août, 1850.

The *Will of the late Sir Robert Peel* contains a codicil, dated the 24th of March 1849, bequeathing to Lord Mahon and Mr. Cardwell, as trustees, all the unpublished letters, papers, and documents, either of a private or public nature, in his possession at the time of his decease. The following extract explains the testator's views, and is strongly characteristic of the lamented statesman :—"Considering that the collection of letters and papers referred to in this codicil includes the whole of my confidential correspondence for a period extending from the year 1812 to the time of my decease, that during a considerable portion of that period I was employed in the service of the crown, and that when not so employed I took an active part in Parliamentary business, it is highly probable that much of that correspondence will be interesting, and calculated to throw light upon the conduct and character of public men and upon the political events of the time—I give to my trustees full discretion with respect to the selection for publication of any portion of that correspondence ; I leave it to them to decide on the period and on the mode of publication, in the full assurance that they will so exercise the discretion given to them, that no honourable confidence shall be betrayed, no private feelings be unnecessarily wounded, and no public interest injuriously affected, in consequence of premature or indiscreet publication. I am especially anxious that no portion of my correspondence with Her Majesty Queen Victoria, or with his Royal Highness Prince Albert, should be made public use of during the life of either, without previous communication with parties who may be enabled to ascertain that there is no objection whatever on the part of either to the use proposed to be made of such correspondence. I authorise my trustees to sell or dispose of the copyright of any of the said documents, if the case in which publication should be determined on by the trustees should be one in which pecuniary compensation for such copyright could be fairly and equitably made, not meaning, however, in any way to fetter their discretion in respect of the giving of gratuitous access to the document whenever they think such access advisable. In the case that any moneys should arise from the publication of any of the said letters, papers, and documents, I authorise the said trustees to apply the said moneys in paying the costs and charges of such publication as far as the trustees may be justly liable for such costs and charges, or other the expenses attending the execution of the trusts hereby reposed in them, and to apply the residue to the assistance or relief of deserving persons being in need of such assistance or relief, engaged, or who have been engaged in pursuits of art, literature, or science; or to apply such residue, or any part of it, in aid of institutions established for the relief or benefit of artists, or literary and scientific persons: and my said trustees shall not be accountable to any persons whomsoever for the application of any such moneys. With these views, it is my desire that the trustees shall, with all convenient speed after my decease collect together all the said letters, papers, and documents, and subject the same to such examination as they in their uncontrolled discretion shall think fit. I give them the fullest power to destroy such parts thereof as they shall think proper, and to provide for the immediate care and custody and ultimate disposition of all or any part of the said letters, papers, and documents."

On the 4th instant, three foreigners, one of whom wore long moustachios, presented themselves at the brewery of Messrs. Barclay and Co. for the purpose of inspecting the establishment. According to the regular practice of visitors, they were requested to sign their names in a book in the office, after which they crossed the yard with one of the clerks. On inspecting the visitors' book, the clerks discovered that one of the visitors was no other than *General Haynau*, the late Commander of the Austrian forces during the Hungarian war. It became known all over the brewery in less than two minutes, and before the General and his companions had crossed the yard, nearly all the labourers and draymen were out, with brooms and dirt, shouting out "Down with the Austrian butcher," and other epithets of rather an alarming nature to the General. He was soon covered with dirt, and perceiving some of the men about to attack him, ran into the street to Bankside, followed by a large mob, consisting of the brewers' men, coal-heavers, and others armed with all sorts of weapons, with which they belaboured the General. He ran along Bankside until he came to the George public-house, when, forcing the doors open, he rushed in and proceeded upstairs into one of the bedrooms, to the astonishment of the landlady, who soon discovered his name and the reason of his entering her house. The furious mob rushed in after him, threatening to do for the "Austrian butcher," but fortunately for him the house was very old fashioned, and contained a vast number of doors, which were all forced open except that of the room in which the General was concealed. The mob increased at that time to several hundreds, and the landlady became alarmed about her own property as well as the General's life. She accordingly despatched a messenger to the Southwark police-station, and in a short time a party arrived, and with great difficulty dispersed the mob and got the General out of the house. A police galley was at the wharf at the time, into which he was taken and rowed towards Somerset House amidst the shouts and execrations of the mob. At Waterloo Bridge a cab was procured, and he was conveyed to Morley's Hotel. On the evening of the 6th, he left London for the Continent.

The Council of the Queen's College, Cork, has formally rescinded their former act, *Suspending M. de Vericour* in consequence of the work published by him; M. de Vericour having announced that he had already given directions for the alteration of the titlepage of his work, so as to convey that it was written by him as "Professor of Modern Languages,' and not in his capacity as Professor to the Queen's College. The council also resolved that any professor should be at liberty to publish any work so that he did not in any way connect its publication with his collegiate duties and position.

Lord Viscount Feilding, who took a leading part in the proceedings of the recent Gorham meeting in St. Martin's Hall in July last, has gone over to the Church of Rome. The Rev. Eyre Stewart Bathurst, Rector of Kibworth in Leicestershire, and formerly Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, and the Rev. Mr. Allies, Vicar of Launton, have taken the same step.

Some of the Irish papers have been telling astounding stories of apparitions of the *Great Sea Serpent*. A Mr. T. Buckley, writing from Kinsale on the 11th instant, informs the Cork Reporter that he was induced by some friends to go to sea, in the hope of falling in with the interesting stranger, and that he was not long kept in suspense, for "a little to the west of the Old Head the monster appeared." Its size, he truly avers, is beyond all description, and the head, he adds, very like a (bottle nose) whale. One of the party fired the usual number of shots, but, of course, without effect.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

JOSEPH BAILEY, ESQ., M.P. for the county of Hereford, died on the 31st August, in Belgrave Square. The hon. gentleman was a Conservative in politics, and identified with the Protectionists. Mr. Bailey seldom spoke in the House of Commons, but on all great political struggles he invariably attended and recorded his votes against the present Government.

The Right Hon. C. W. W. WYNN, M.P. for Montgomeryshire, died on the 2nd inst. in his 75th year, at his residence in Grafton Street. He was the oldest member of the House of Commons, having sat for Montgomeryshire since 1797, and for about a year previously for Old Sarum.

SIR GEORGE HAMILTON, Minister Plenipotentiary of England at Florence, died in that city on the 3rd.

MRS. EGERTON, the actress, a lady not surpassed by any upon the stage in a particular line of parts—witness her *Meg Merrilies* and others—died at Brompton on the 3rd, at the age of 57.

LORD WILLIAM CLINTON, fourth son of the Duke of Newcastle, attached to the British mission at Athens, died there on the 3rd in his 35th year.

COLONEL WILLIAM ELPHINSTONE HOLLOWAY, C.B., commanding officer of Royal Engineers at Plymouth, died on the 4th, after a protracted illness, the severity of which was much increased by the wounds he had received in the service of his country. Colonel Holloway was in the Peninsular campaigns of 1810, 1811, and 1812; he was wounded in the trenches before Badajoz, and shot through the body on the 26th of the same month whilst storming the same works.

BARONESS ROTHSCHILD died at Gunnersbury Park on the 5th, in her 68th year. She was the widow of Baron Rothschild, the celebrated capitalist, who died in 1836; by whom she leaves four sons and two daughters, Baron Lionel, Sir Anthony, Baron Nathaniel, Baron Meyer, Baroness Anselm, and Mrs. Fitzroy.

The Rev. DR. INGRAM, President of Trinity College, Oxford, and Rector of Garsington, died at Trinity College on the 5th. Dr. Ingram is the author of "Memorials of Oxford," a work of great antiquarian research.

The Right Hon. JOHN DOHERTY, Chief-Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in Ireland, died on the 8th at Beaumaris, a short time after his lordship had retired to rest: his death was the result of a disease of the heart.

The Right Rev DR. STOPFORD, Bishop of Meath, died at the Palace, Ardbraccan, on the 17th. His lordship was a member of the Privy Council in Ireland.

VISCOUNT NEWARK, the eldest son of Earl Manvers, died on the 23rd, at Torquay, in his 45th year.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

SIR CHARLES NAPIER'S formal resignation of the command in India, and the official appointment of his successor, leave us still in the dark as to the cause of dispute. Some light has been thrown by the last arrival, however, and not of the pleasantest kind, on the state and discipline of some portions of the Indian army. The whole question will doubtless be opened up on the arrival in England of the late Commander in Chief. It may, meanwhile, not be inconsistent with a high admiration for the great qualities of all the Napiers, to express a wish that this remarkable family were better provided with what the world commonly agrees to call discretion and prudence; and that they could bring themselves, when out of office, to be something less of the democrat, and, when in office, something less of the tyrant.

Of positive news from any other of our dependencies or colonies the month has furnished none. But we have thriving accounts from Jamaica of a proposed vigorous effort at cotton cultivation in that island; and from other quarters we hear generally not unfavourable accounts of material prosperity. The agitators are the men that don't thrive, though very possibly for reasons making their agitation not unjustifiable. When we received our last news of Doctor Lang, who has been moving heaven and earth for the establishment into an independent republic of all the Australian Colonies, on the plan of the United States, he had been flung into prison for debt. But he is out again by this time; and his political energies, however unwisely directed for the present, need not in their issue be unproductive of good. Such irritants are not ill medicine for the present malady of the Colonial Office.

The *Overland Mail* has brought dates from Bombay to the 5th, Calcutta the 7th, and Madras the 13th of August.

Colonel King, Committed suicide at Wuzeerabad, near Lahore, on the 6th of July. He commanded the 14th Light Dragoons, at the battle of Chillianwalla, where the corps retreated from before the enemy, got into momentary confusion, and overset a couple of our own guns, thereby causing them to be captured by the Sikhs. The affair was passed over at the time, and in a short time probably all would have been forgotten, had not Sir C. Napier, in a speech to the corps some months back, alluded to the matter by saying that such a corps as the 14th would go anywhere, or do anything, if properly commanded. This taunt acted powerfully on the over-sensitive mind of Colonel King, and he became the prey of a settled melancholy, which he never seems to have been able to throw off. In June, some of his men were taunted at the theatre by the artillerymen with being cowards, which was of course resented, and a row ensued. Shortly before this, a man of the corps, named M'Lean, was taken before Colonel King for some crime, and on being sentenced to punishment, called him a coward. For this he was tried by a court-martial, and sentenced to corporal punishment, which he underwent on the 20th March; and the man, on being taken down from the halberts, walked towards Colonel King, and again called him a coward, using, at the same time, grossly abusive language. M'Lean had managed before coming out for punishment to get enough liquor to make him shortly after tipsy, hoping thereby to deaden his feelings to the cat-o'-nine tails; and it was while under the influence of the liquor, and the pain caused by the flogging, that he again committed himself as above. He was now ordered to be tried by a general court-martial, which took place on the 3rd of June last. He was found guilty of outrageous and insubordinate conduct, and sentenced to transportation for seven years. This sentence, having been transmitted to the Commander-in-Chief, was returned by him with the following remarks:—

"Revised—In revising the proceedings of the court, I am obliged to call its attention to some facts which demand the most serious notice.—1st. The prisoner was allowed to get drunk in the guard-room of Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons, when under sentence of a court martial,—2nd. The prisoner was brought drunk to the parade.—3rd. Assistant-Surgeon Fasson, whose business it was closely to have examined the state of the prisoner who was about to suffer corporal punishment, did not examine him, and did not perceive that he was intoxicated, till drink and the pain of punishment had made him so furious, that the assistant-surgeon's own words are "I thought he was either mad or drunk."—4th. Adjutant Lieutenant Apthorp, equally unobserving with the assistant-surgeon, did not find out that the prisoner was drunk till after he had received punishment.—5th. The consequence was that this soldier was flogged when in a state of intoxication, and all this took place in the presence of Lietenant-Colonel King, the commanding officer of the regiment.—6th. When freed from the triangles, the prisoner, infuriated by having drunk nearly two bottles of arrack and some beer in the guard room, as proved before the court, became outrageous and abusive, as might have been foreseen.—7th. I ask the court, therefore, to reconsider and to mitigate its sentence, for however disgraceful and insubordinate the conduct of the culprit may have been, it was certainly as much produced by the neglect of duty in others, as by the drunkard himself. The sentence appears to me to be severe beyond all proportion to the crime, in the peculiar circumstances above stated.

"(Signed) C. J. NAPIER,
"*Commander-in-Chief, East Indies.*"

The court-martial accordingly reconsidered their sentence, and re-transmitted it to the Commander-in-Chief,

stating, that they respectfully begged to adhere to it. On this Sir Charles Napier returned the sentence with the following note subjoined :—

"Head Quarters, 1st July, 1850.

"I am sorry that the court felt itself called upon to adhere to a sentence which I have no power to commute, and cannot, in the extraordinary circumstances of the case, execute! I have, therefore, no alternative but to pardon the prisoner, not excused by his drunkenness, but in facts stated in my remarks to the court on its proceedings being revised. I assure the court that great severity, without a due consideration being given to circumstances, is not justice, nor conducive to discipline.

The prisoner is to return to his troop.

"(Signed) C. J. NAPIER,
"*General, Commander-in-Chief, East Indies.*"

These remarks seem to have caused the cup of Colonel King's bitterness to overflow; for their promulgation was immediately followed by his act of suicide.

The *Affreedees* have again closed the pass to Kohat, and seem inclined to be as troublesome as ever. A man of the Horse Artillery has been shot by one of them close to his quarter guard.

The *Sikh Prisoners at Allahabad* keep the authorities there in a state of disquiet. They have been detected in a communication with the ex-Ranee (now in Nepaul). On the 26th of June a Cawnpore Brahmin, named Seetaram, was found inside the quarters inhabited by the prisoners, ten in number, notwithstanding all the precautions and vigilance used to prevent every species of intercourse. Nothing was found on the man, though he acknowledged being in Sikh pay. The next day a court of inquiry was assembled, and sufficient was elicited to prove that a deep-laid plot had been organised. Several letters were found addressed to the friends of the prisoners, and one document containing the names of the different officers in command of corps and the stations where their regiments were located. Information was likewise obtained of two Sikhs, who were concealed in a Ghossain's house in the city, having in their possession a sum of 20,000 rupees, dedicated to purposes of bribery. Upon the person of one of the prisoners a file was found. The Jemedar and sentries in charge of the guard have been placed in arrest, on a suspicion of collusion.

A tragical event has occurred on board the Hon. Company's cargo boat Kaleegunga, in tow of the steamer Burhampooter, at Patna. She left Allahabad with thirty-nine Sikh convicts with a very weak guard. The arms of the guard were piled between them and the convicts; when at Patna, the latter having seized the fire arms, which were loaded, rose upon the guard, and a desperate conflict ensued. Two of the guard and two of the convicts were killed, and the convicts succeeded in running the boat ashore and escaping. It appeared that the affair took place in the day time, which renders it still more extraordinary.

Another Explosion of an Ordnance Flotilla occurred on the Ganges, near Chuprah, on the 10th of July. The fleet consisted of about thirty boats, of which upwards of half were loaded with gunpowder. Twelve boats are lost—seven, with 1800 barrels of powder on board, exploded, and five sunk. The crews discovered the fire in time, and escaped. Suspicion attaches to the native boatmen, from the circumstances of their having received their pay in advance at Dinapore, and having all escaped injury. A committee of inquiry has been instituted to investigate the matter.

The Bengal papers are filled with disgraceful *exposés* of the extent to which gambling is carried on amongst the young officers of the Queen's and Company's services on leave at Simla and other hill stations. Some of these have been openly charged with cheating at play. This shows the propriety of Sir C. Napier's unpopular general order restricting the leave of officers to the hills during the hot season.

The discussion on Mr. Bright's motion has excited much interest in India, and the local press generally advocate the appointment of a cotton commission.

The accounts from *Hong-Kong* are to the 24th of July. Sickness among the European troops has been on the increase; as many as 160 men have been in the hospital at one time, and about thirty-five have died of fever. This happens when there is no unusual sickness either among the community or the government police force. This mortality is ascribed to the unhealthy position of the barracks, occasioned chiefly by the nature of the ground in the rear, and to the crowded state of the rooms occupied by the men.

The Governor of Macao, Commodore Da Cunha, who had recently arrived, died on the 6th of July. He had been for some time in bad health. His death is said to be most unfortunate for the settlement of Macao, matters with the Chinese government not being yet arranged.

Papers from *Ceylon* have been received to the 15th of August. They announce Lord Torrington's resignation of his office of Governor, and his intention of taking his departure for Bombay.

The intelligence from the *West Indies* is not important. Several articles on the culture of cotton appear in the journals of Kingston, and on the 27th ult. a large meeting was held in the directors' room of the Bank of Jamaica to establish a small company, with a limited number of shares, to test the practicability of rendering the cotton plant a staple production of the island. Resolutions in accordance with this view were passed, and every symptom of vigour manifested.

The *Montreal* papers contain an account of a most destructive Fire in that town on the night of the 23rd of August, which destroyed property to the amount of half-a-million of dollars. Above a hundred houses were utterly destroyed, besides great damage done to many others. The rapid extension of the fire is attributed in a great measure to the use of shingles in roofing houses, which seems to be a practice very generally adopted in the town to save expense.

Advices from *Melbourne* have been received to the 16th of May. The Reverend Dr. Lang, who some years ago attracted attention by a letter to Earl Grey impugning the administration of the Australian Colonies, had created much excitement by originating a movement for the independence of these Colonies. He had delivered a lecture on the subject at Melbourne, in a tone of respect for the queen and good will to England, but openly advocating complete separation and independence, which, he believed, Great Britain would concede on a proper representation of the case. He recommended the formation of an "Australian League" or federal republic, embracing all the Colonies, constructed on the model of the United States of America, and denominated "the United Provinces of Australia." Dr. Lang entered minutely into the details of his scheme, and was loudly applauded. After the delivery of his lecture he was thrown into prison for some matter of debt, to the great displeasure, it is stated, of the Melbourne public, who were raising a subscription for his release.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

SOLEMN ceremonials have been celebrated over France for him who now sleeps in the quiet vault at Weybridge, Changarnier ordering and Louis Napoleon not resisting. It is called hypocrisy, but not with much reason. Hypocrisy is the homage which vice pays to virtue; and if Louis Philippe must stand for virtue in the case, Changarnier and Louis Napoleon are free from vice. They have for some time faithfully governed on the principles of the citizen king, simply using their greater power to better his instruction. Nevertheless the Orleans adherents, who are strong in the departments through which the president lately

passed to Cherbourg, have not shown symptoms of greater favour to the candidate for empire. At Cherbourg itself he had a reception of marked coldness; and the folk who went to enjoy the holiday and increase the noise, had to exhaust their stock of enthusiasm on the ships and the fortifications. The enormous six-deckers and eighty-four-pounders carried off, accordingly, an amount of loose admiration which has quite startled good people on the opposite coast. The effect has been but transient, however. France makes only a holiday show in these matters after all. The statistics of maritime development and progress are against her; and it is but to contrast any one of our naval ports with what has been going on at Cherbourg since the days of Louis Quatorze, to see that nature is more than a match for art in this respect. It is not ships and fortifications that make a maritime country, nor even the advantages of natural ports and harbours. When France can send to Portsmouth or Plymouth such a fleet of pleasure yachts as were sporting the other day round her war-leviathans at Cherbourg, it will be time for England to look about her. Not till she begins to take to the sea as the duck to the water, need her maritime supremacy be feared. Never yet, with all her big equipment and endless braggadocio, has she really shown the natural taste for it.

A new element of discord, which seems to promise new and important combinations, has been flung into the endless German dispute. The entire population of the State of Hesse Cassel, including parliament, army, and state functionaries, as well as common people, have risen against their Elector and his minister, and incontinently bundled them out. This revolution differs from those which have been general in that neighbourhood of late, in the circumstance that it is strictly a vindication of order. The Hessians had been perfectly quiet in '48, content with the constitution they obtained in '30; and it has been simply the gross violation of the latter by their prince which they have thus summarily punished. The incident, though not unimportant in itself, derives a still greater importance from its probable influence on the dispute between North and South Germany, and the aid it is likely to give Prussia in her present attitude of resistance. The activity of the Holsteiners, and their still resolute and indomitable front, is another turn in events which falls out opportunely; and it is not by any means impossible, if the right courage and a proper understanding of the constitutional cause be now stedfastly shown, that Prussia may redeem her mistakes, obtain a triumph over Austrian imbecility and intrigue, and finally assert her own position at the head of public opinion in Germany.

In our *Narrative* of May we said that the pinch of the Slavery Compromise in America, would be felt when the law compelling the surrender of fugitive slaves came to be discussed. The bill has passed the senate amid extraordinary excitement, and is now under debate in the lower house, the excitement by no means diminishing. The provisions of this bill, already passed through a house where the democrats have a majority, is scarcely credible even of a country debased as America is by her "domestic institutions." Commissioners are appointed to determine claims, with a direct pecuniary interest if they determine for the master, with none if they pronounce for the slave! Heavy fines and penalties are imposed on refusals to take part in arrests, on whatever groundless suspicions; and on attempts at rescue, on whatever ground of justice! The arrests may be made with or without warrant, and neither the declaration nor the oath of the fugitive is admissible in his own defence! All the processes are summary, all the powers irresponsible, and the entire forces of the state are lent for the oppression of the poor hapless coloured wretch, whom any reckless trafficker in human flesh may, with or without a claim, resolve to drag to slavery! The proposal of such a measure is a scandal to civilisation, and its enactment will be another item in the heavy claim which is silently mounting up for sure and not tardy retribution.

"There is a strong blind Samson in that land!"

President Louis Napoleon's *Journey in the French Provinces* was partly noticed in our last Number. He returned by Strasbourg, Metz, and Rheims, to Paris, where he arrived on the 28th of August. We extract from the French papers a few characteristic traits of his reception. At *Mulhausen*, where he stopped before he arrived at Strasbourg, the zeal of a functionary in endeavouring to force the National Guard to cry "Vive le Président!" is said to have so irritated them that they assembled in masses, and shouted "Vive la République" under the President's window. Offended at this, he left the place instantly, refusing to visit the factories. When he came to *Colmar*, the authorities were unprepared to receive him with due honours, and he expressed his discontent by refusing to go to a ball offered to him. In the capital of *Alsace*, however, his reception was splendid. His cavalcade, as he entered the town amid the shouts of the assembled thousands, had a truly imperial aspect; "His guard was composed of the Cavalry of the national Guards of Strasbourg and the Gendarmerie; after whom came about a dozen Lancers; and then between the Minister of War and the Minister of Foreign Affairs rode the President, as usual wearing the uniform of a general officer of the National Guard, with the grand cordon of the Legion of Honour. He rode a most beautiful horse, which had been presented by the authorities. It was most brilliantly caparisoned: the housings wanted only the crown to complete the imperial effect. As the President came opposite to the Hôtel de Paris, he looked up to the balcony of the first floor, and taking off his plumed hat, bowed to the very saddle-bow to the Grand Duchess of Baden, who had arrived in order to witness her nephew's entry into Strasbourg. A lively description is given of the presentation of addresses by the corporations of the small towns and villages in the neighbourhood. "The most interesting sight of all was that of the rural mayors in their old quaint costume; simple peasants, who had probably never heard of the Republic, but came to see 'Luig Bompar,' the nephew of the Emperor. The peasantry are much attached to Louis Napoleon, and the present journey proves it. These village functionaries, each wearing his scarf of office, were in number nearly two hundred, and they were from those places the President had been unable to visit. They felt rather awkward in finding themselves in these splendid saloons; but they were soon placed quite at their ease by the good-natured and familiar manners of the President, who had a kind word, a ready smile, and a grasp of the hand for each. Before a quarter of an hour had elapsed, there they were in a group, with the President in the midst of them, and chatting away in German or Alsacian *patois*, which he spoke with them very fluently. They looked quite pleased at finding that 'Luig' spoke in their native tongue as well as themselves. This interview lasted some time, for all parties seemed to like the conversation. In the mean time, crowds of visitors were thronging the court of the Prefecture, and an immense crowd blocked up the streets. The cries of 'Vive Napoléon!' 'Vive le Président!' and 'Vive la République!' scarcely ceased the whole of the morning."

At *Metz* there was a grand review of 15,000 regular troops and National Guards. The President's reception at the Arsenal was most enthusiastic. He has, it seems, made artillery a subject of special study. He conversed

much on that topic, and surprised the military men present with the extent of his professional information. In the evening a grand ball was given in his honour. The managers conceived the idea of not allowing any but ladies to enter the ball-room before his arrival: when he entered the room, at a little after nine, he found himself surrounded by all the pretty women of Metz. The gentlemen were then admitted, and dancing immediately commenced. The President opened the ball, and remained there until eleven o'clock. His progress from Metz to Paris was highly satisfactory. At *Verdun*, the streets were transformed into a garden, and the enthusiasm of the people seemed greater and more sincere than in any other town. At *Rheims*, he replied to a flattering address with effective brevity:—"Our country wishes for nothing but order, religion, and liberty. Everywhere the number of the agitators is infinitely small, but the number of the good citizens infinitely great." "Entering this ancient city of Rheims, where the kings, who also represented the interests of the nation, came to be crowned, I wished that we could, in the same place, crown not a man, but an idea of union and conciliation, of which the triumph would restore repose in our country."

On the 3rd, the President set out upon another provincial excursion. He arrived that evening at *Evreux*, where he entertained a large party to dinner. The Socialists had summoned from Rouen a number of their friends to get up a hostile demonstration, but it proved a failure.

The President arrived at *Caen* on the evening of the 4th. He reviewed the troops and National Guards on the morning of the 5th. He was received by the troops, and by the immense population which crowded on his way, with cries of "Vive Napoléon!" The cries of "Vive la République!" were few at Caen. Among the addresses delivered to the President at Caen, was one from the President of the Council General of the Department, in which it was remarked that Louis Napoleon was addressed by the title of "Your Highness." He left Caen immediately after the review, and arrived the same evening at Cherbourg.

On the morning of Friday the 6th, the President received the mayors and authorities of the neighbouring arrondissements, and many Englishmen of distinction, who had arrived at *Cherbourg* in yachts, paid their respects to him. He then reviewed the National Guard and the troops of the garrison, in the midst of a vast concourse of people. Democratic cries were uttered by some groups, and a midshipman who distinguished himself by the violence of his gestures and his insulting language, was taken into custody. A banquet was given to him by the city of Cherbourg, at which seven hundred persons were present. Many Englishmen were among the guests; particularly Admirals Sir C. Napier, Sir Thomas Cochrane, and Sir Edmund Lyons; Captains Pelham, Mundy, Chads, Seymour, Mackinnon, Jones, and Hall; the Earl Wilton Commodore of the Royal Yacht Club, the Earl of Cadogan, Marquis of Ormond, Earl of Orkney, Viscount Canterbury, Mr. Talbot the Vice-Commodore of the Royal Yacht Club, and Captain Smith of the Royal Engineers. After dinner the Mayor of Cherbourg gave as a toast "The memory of the Emperor Napoleon, and the health of the President of the Republic." The President, in acknowledging the compliment, made several noticeable remarks. "How did it happen," he said, "that the Emperor, in spite of war, was able to cover all France with imperishable works that are found at every step, and are nowhere found so remarkable and so great as here? It is that, independently of his genius, he lived at a period when the nation, exhausted by revolution, gave him the necessary power to crush anarchy, repress faction, and secure the triumph by glory abroad, at home by a vigorous impulse of the general interests of the country." He proceeded to give as a toast, "The City of Cherbourg," adding, "Yes! I propose this toast in the very sight of the fleet that carried so nobly the French flag to the East, and is still ready to carry it with equal glory wherever the honour of our nation calls it. I propose this toast in the presence of those distinguished strangers now our guests. They can convince themselves of the fact that if we desire peace it is not because we are weak. It is not because we are weak, but rather from that community of interests and those sentiments of mutual esteem which bind together the two most civilised nations of the globe. I drink to the city and port of Cherbourg!" These words were followed by repeated shouts of "Vive l'Empereur! Vive Napoléon!" After the banquet the President visited the Fort de Roules, which commands the harbour, but which is not now occupied. At night a splendid ball was given in his honour, at which several thousand persons were present. All the ships in the harbour were illuminated, as also many of the private houses in the town. On Saturday morning, the 7th, the President visited the arsenal. He was cordially received by the artisans in all the *atéliers*. At mid-day he proceeded to the squadron, and visited the admiral's ship, the Friedland, commanded by Vice-Admiral Parseval Deschênes. He visited in turn each vessel of the fleet. In the course of this day was repeated a beautiful display by the yachts which the President's late arrival on Thursday prevented him from witnessing. A squadron of thirty of the largest yachts was formed into two lines under the Commander of the Royal Yacht squadron, the Earl of Wilton, and its Vice-Commodore, Mr. Talbot, M.P.; and it sailed out of the roads for a cruise round the *digue*. The vessels swept along, each with bated or hastened speed so as exactly to preserve its place with relation to all the rest; the whole body tacking, reaching, and swelling along, with the simultaneous movements of a flight of birds in the air. Their manœuvres beyond all others engrossed the attention of the French. The citizens and peasants marvelled agape at the exhibition of such professional skill by the landsmen owners of the craft; the sailors openly expressed their admiration—the captain of the Jemappes exclaiming aloud, that the manœuvre was "superbe et très-délicieuse!" The day terminated with a banquet, which took place at 7 o' clock. A ball was given the same night in the great hall of the Espadage. A brilliant and numerous assemblage was present, and it is stated that 7000 applications had been made for tickets. The President danced with the lady of one of the representatives of the department. On Sunday, the 8th, after hearing mass on board the Friedland, the President proceeded to complete the inspection of the vessels which he had not time to examine in all their details the day previous. At two o'clock the manœuvres commenced. The ships were cleared as if for action; and not less than 4000 shots were fired, after which fifty boats completely armed, and forming in line, proceeded to exercise and sham fights, during which a feigned attack was made on the steam-frigate Descartes. The President then proceeded to the gun-room of the Friedland, where a banquet had been prepared. The table was in the form of a horse-shoe, and the small arms of the ship, arranged in stars, &c., formed the ornaments of the banqueting-hall: 112 persons sat down to dinner. This number included the commanders of the squadron, as well as the officers of every rank. The English Admirals, Cochrane, Napier, &c., Captains Chads, Seymour, and Stopford, &c., were amongst the number. When the dessert was placed on the table, Admiral Parseval Deschênes rose, and in a firm tone of voice proposed the President's health in the following terms:—"To the health of the President of the Republic! His presence in the squadron is the guarantee for the future of the efficacious protection of the government. 'Vive le Président!'" This cry was taken up and repeated by the Admiral and all the guests. The President rose and returned thanks thus:—"I am happy to have it in my power to propose, in turn, a toast to the French Navy, on board the ship of which the Admiral near me is the worthy chief,—to that French Navy whose devotedness to the country has ever been proved in its brightest days as in its gloomy,—to that Navy whose valour is so heroic, that even when fortune turns against it, we may still apply to it the words of the poet—'Her cypresses have been as glorious as her laurels' (*ses cyprès ont été aussi beaux que ses lauriers*),—I drink to the French Navy." This speech and toast were, as will easily be supposed, followed by loud and repeated applause. The President entered the hotel of the Maritime Prefect at ten o'clock, after having spent the whole day on board the fleet.

On Monday morning the President left Cherbourg,

the National Guards and an immense crowd of people saluting him with loud cries of "Vive Napoléon! Vive le President!" He arrived that evening at *Saint Lô*, where the manifestation in his favour is described as "enthusiastic and universal." He then skirted the whole Eastern coast of the Bay of St. Malo, staying at Coutances and Avranches; and finally returned to Paris by way of Argentan; the authorities and people everywhere hailing him cordially.

The Councils-General of France have terminated their Annual Session. The chief question agitated by them has been the revision of the constitution. The result has been thus summed up:—Twenty-one councils separated without taking the subject into consideration; ten rejected propositions for revision; two declared that the constitution ought to be respected; thirty-three departments therefore refused, more or less formally, to aid the revision. On the other hand, forty-nine councils came to decisions which the revisionist party claim for themselves. But a very great diversity is to be perceived in these decisions. Thirty-two pronounced in favour of revision only "so far as it should take place under legal conditions," or "so far as legality should be observed:" two of those called attention to the forty-fifth article of the constitution, which makes Louis Napoleon incapable of being immediately rechosen; but another demanded that his powers should be prolonged. One council voted for revision, and also desired to prolong the President's power; ten simply voted for revision; five pronounced for immediate revision, but by very small majorities; one went further, and proposed to give the present Assembly—which is legislative and not constituent—authority to effect the revision. Three councils express merely a desire for a remedy to the present situation. Thirty-three departments have not pronounced for the revision, or have pronounced against it; thirty-three are in favour of a legal revision; thirteen demand the revision without explaining on what conditions they desire to see it effected; and six demand it immediately; making the total of eighty-five.

The *Commission for Surveillance* met on the 19th in the National Assembly. M. Dupin presided. The Minister of the Interior was summoned, as usual, to attend and give an account of the state of the country. M. Baroche read a document on the subject, from which it would appear that at no previous period was there greater prosperity in most branches of trade and manufactures, and not for many years was public order better maintained that at this moment.

It appears that there are in France regularly licensed *Marriage Agents*, whose transactions are sanctioned by the law courts. The civil tribunal of Le Mans has just condemned a person named Designé and his son, of Parigné l'Evêque, department of the Sarthe, to pay 10,000 francs to M. Foy, for having negotiated the marriage of the son with a Mdlle. de Brue, niece of the Marquis de Malestroit. M. Foy was applied to by the father and the son to find a wife for the latter. Foy introduced them to Mdlle. le Brue, who was possessed of a certain fortune, and the son eventually married her. By an agreement duly drawn up before the marriage, the father and son bound themselves to pay M. Foy 12,500 francs for his services. This, however, they on different pretexts subsequently refused to do, and so Foy brought his action; but reduced his demand to 10,000 francs, he having consented, after some negotiation, to accept that sum. After hearing counsel at great length on both sides, the tribunal gave judgment in Foy's favour for the full amount claimed.

A *Split has taken place among the Legitimists.* On the termination of the Congress at Wisbaden, a circular was addressed to the party, under the authority of the Count de Chambord, in which it declared that he "has formally and absolutely condemned the system of an appeal to the people, as implying the negation of the great national principle of hereditary monarchy." This has called forth a reply from the Marquis de la Rochejaquelein, who had previously proposed an appeal to the people of France, to know whether they would have a Republic or a Monarchy. In a letter to the Paris journal the Evénement, he re-iterates with energy his former sentiments, and says, "I accept completely my excommunication; it is evident that we have no longer the same principles."

The accounts from *Piedmont* describe the public mind as greatly excited against Austria. On the 15th, there was a disturbance, from this cause, in the theatre of Turin; during the performance of a piece called *Lega Lombarda*, when a number of soldiers wearing the Austrian colours of "black and yellow," and headed by an Austrian eagle, came on the stage, they were saluted by a hurricane of hisses, and a tumult of groans, which lasted for nearly a quarter of an hour. The attack did not come from any isolated box or bench, but it was participated in by all present, and it is said that there were not ten ladies or gentlemen who did not take an active share. The people regard the presence of the Austrians in Italy as the sole bar to the establishment of Italian nationality.

The King of Prussia, on receiving a deputation from the Conservative Constitutional Union of Berlin on the 13th, thus expressed his sentiments on the question of *German Unity*:—"My sentiments on the German question have often been misunderstood. Some have done me great injustice in respect to those sentiments [alluding to the speech of the King of Wurtemberg on the opening of the Chambers]: this will not turn me from the path of duty. It is to be regretted that in more than one place it is not understood that it is possible to be honest in politics. In striving for Germany I follow the impulses of my own heart. I maintain the German idea, and will pursue the path on which I have entered, as far as God gives me light; but I hope no further. As King of Prussia, I shall strive for Germany; as a friend and ally, I will carry conciliation as far as the honour of this country will permit. For the maintenance of this honour, I can appeal to the five hundred years which the history of my house embraces."

The ratifications of the Treaty of Peace between *Germany and Denmark* were exchanged on the 6th instant at the residence of the British Minister at Berlin, and a protocol of the transaction was signed by the Ministers of the parties, and by Mr. Howard the British *chargé d'affaires* on behalf of the mediating power, The German states, parties to the treaty thus ratified, are, the King of Prussia, the Grand Dukes of Baden. Saxe Weimar, and Mecklenburg Schwerin; the Dukes of Saxe Meinengen, Saxe Altenburg, Anhalt Dessau and Bemburg; the Princes of Schwartzburg-Rudolstadt and Sonderhausen, the Princes of Waldeck, the Princes of Lippe-Detmold, of Reuss, Elder and Younger, and the senates of the Free Towns of Lubeck, Bremen, and Hamburg. The Danish Minister declared, in the name of his government, that in lending itself to the partial exchange at the recommendation of the mediating power, it retained the hope that as the present act does not yet contain all the states belonging to the Germanic Confederation, no delay will occur in his reception of the complement necessary to verify the ratifications of this treaty for the whole of the states forming this Confederation.

A Movement of momentous import has taken place in Hesse Cassel, in consequence of an act of the Elector's government, administered by his Prime Minister Hassenpflug. By an article of the constitution, the Hessian Chamber has the exclusive right of voting taxes. Hassenpflug, however, declined or delayed to call them together, until the time generally destined for the close of the session. The Ministers immediately put before them a demand for money, and for the liberty to raise the taxes for 1850. The Parliament replied, by an unanimous vote, that however little the ministers possessed the confidence of Parliament, they would not go the length of refusing the supplies, but requested to have a regular budget laid before them, which they promised to examine, discuss, and vote. To so fair and constitutional a resolution the minister replied by dissolving the Parliament, and proceeding to levy the taxes in spite of the Parliament and the constitution. The cabinet went to the extremity of proclaiming the whole Electorate in a state of siege, and investing the commander-in-chief with dictatorial powers against the press, personal liberty, and property. The town council unanimously protested against these

arbitrary acts; and such a spirit of resistance was excited that the Elector and his minister were constrained to seek safety in flight. The Elector left Cassel on the morning of the 13th, and arrived the same evening at Hanover, where he was afterwards joined by Hassenpflug. Some of the accounts state that M. Hassenpflug was agitated by terror in his flight. He arrived at Rheda, in Westphalia, on the 13th instant, and on the following morning he took the train to Cologne. He was pale, and his features were distorted with fear and the fatigues of his journey. He informed his fellow-travellers that he was proceeding to Coblentz; but it was generally supposed that he intended to escape into Belgium. His presence in the train having become known, it was soon whispered at all the stations that the "Hessen fluch" (Hesse's curse) was a passenger in a certain carriage; and everywhere public opinion vented itself in groans and execrations. On the arrival of the train in Dusseldorf, the gendarmes on duty were informed of the presence of Hassenpflug, the convicted forger of Greifsweld. One of the passengers, who had paid a particular and by no means welcome attention to M. Hassenpflug's bearing and features, was canvassing the subject with one of the gendarmes, when the ex-minister, unable to retain his pent-up emotion, addressed him with, "I say, sir, why do you persecute me?" "Sir," replied the passenger, "I do not persecute you. I 'm just telling this man of the villanies of that scoundrel Hassenpflug." The gendarmes asked him for his passport; and when the minister produced that document, a voice was heard to cry, "Look sharp, man, whether it is a good passport! You know he 's a forger!" Upon this Mr. Hassenpflug was arrested, and taken to the police-station; but he was subsequently allowed to proceed by post to Langenfeld, where he intended to wait for the Elector's arrival. At Hanover it is said that the Elector made application for military aid to carry out the policy in which he had been checked; but the reply was unfavourable. Thence he turned to the South-west, in order to regain the South of his own dominions by a detour through Minden and Dusseldorf. He and his ministers were at Frankfort on the 16th. From thence he went to Williamstadt, where, on the 19th, he issued a decree making that place the seat of government.

On the 13th, the day on which the Elector took his secret departure, a courier arrived at Cassel from General Hainau, the Minister of War, to General Bauer, the Commander in Chief, instructing him that the government had been removed from Cassel; and that the Elector had revoked all the decree establishing the state of siege, except the second section of it, which placed the Civil Guard under the Commander in Chief. The municipal authorities met, and immediately issued an address, stating that the harmony between the military and civil powers would obviate all the evils threatened by the unexpected departure of the Sovereign and his Ministers, and exhorting the people to persevere in their strictly legal and orderly behaviour. On the 14th, the Permanent Committee of the Assembly resolved to bring old General Bauer, a stanch disciplinarian soldier, but a most honest and respected citizen, to account for his share in executing the late measures. He was prosecuted for abuse of office, violation of the constitution, and high treason. On the first point, a military one, the Garrison Court acquitted him; on the other two, the "General Auditoriat" Court found that "the facts adduced were not sufficiently strong to warrant further proceedings." The old soldier has expressed his desire to resign, and confines himself at home as "sick."

The accounts from *Madrid* announce the capture and death of the Centralista chief, Baliarao, who for more than three months past had kept in continual movement the whole of the troops of that province. He was concealed in his mother's house in the village of St. Andres de Palomar, where the volunteers of Catalonia, who had been for many days in pursuit of him, overtook him. They attacked resolutely the place of his refuge, where his brother and some of his partisans also were, and after an obstinate defence, during which two of the volunteers were killed, succeeded in entering the house, when they immediately put him and his companions to death, and severely wounded his brother, who however had the good fortune to make his escape. At this moment there is not a single insurgent in arms in Catalonia.

The *Elections for the Cortes*, both in Madrid and in the provinces, have terminated in so signal a defeat of the Progresista party, that the government will find itself almost without an opposition in the assembly. Even the moderate or conservative opposition has obtained so few votes, that it has no longer any pretension to the name of a party. An idea of the general result may be obtained from the state of the ballot in Madrid; the Moderates had 2185 votes, the Progresistas 509, the Conservative opposition 15, and the pure Democrats only 6.

Hostilities have been renewed between the troops of *Denmark and the Duchies*. Offensive operations were commenced by the Schleswig-Holsteiners on the 12th, and continued without any definite result to the 13th inst. On the 12th inst. the entire Holstein army advanced, and made an attack on the whole Danish line. The fighting, as at Idstedt, was very fierce, especially at Eckernforde, which was taken and retaken twice during the day; and then remaining in the hands of the Holsteiners, who established their head-quarters there in the afternoon. The town suffered severely; the Danish ships of war stationed in the harbour fired broadsides, until the Holsteiners, having brought up some heavy guns to the coast, compelled them to leave. The wounded were sent to Kiel, and filled fourteen carriages. The Danish camp, strongly entrenched before Eckernforde, was taken, after three assaults, by the Holsteiners, and afterwards destroyed by fire. The strong Danish trenches were carried by the bayonet, and the carnage seems to have been frightful. At daybreak on the morning of the 13th, the battle was renewed with redoubled fury. General Willisen marched on Missunde to force the Schlei. He was attacked by the Danes in the forest of Cosel, and driven back. He withhdrew behind Eckernforde. The Holstein army surrendered Eckernforde on the 13th, and resumed its position of the 12th. On the 14th, General Willisen's head-quarters were at Wittensee.

The accounts from *Copenhagen* give some particulars respecting the Morganatic marriage (mentioned in last month's Narrative) between the King of Denmark and the Countess Danner, formerly the court milliner. The ceremony was performed in the Palace Chapel, and two Countesses were commanded to attend—the Countess Von Ahlefeld (the lady of the Chief Clerk of the Closet) and the Countess Knuth. The youthful bride was led to the altar by Baron Lewetzau, Marshal of the Royal Household. The ceremony was performed in the presence of the whole court, who were attired in court dresses. After the marriage there was a grand dinner at the palace. The Hereditary Prince Ferdinand led the Countess Danner to table, and the King the Countess Von Ahlefeld. A few days after the King and the Countess Von Danner paid an unexpected visit to his stepmother, the Queen Carolina Amelia. The Queen Dowager, the widow of Frederick VI., forbade the visit that the king and the countess intended to pay to her. The ladies who attend court, and who were highly indignant at this marriage, were under great apprehensions lest they should receive commands to wait upon the Countess Von Danner; it being known that she had declared that nothing would give her more satisfaction than to see the ladies upon whom she waited as their dressmaker now come and pay their court to her.

The *Peace Congress assembled at Frankfort*, commenced its proceedings on the 22nd August in the Church of St. Paul. Dr. Jaup of Darmstadt was elected President of the Congress. The principal speakers at the meetings were Mr. Cobden, the Rev. Mr. Burnett of Camberwell, M. Emile Girardin, M. Bonnet, the pastor of the French Protestant church, Mr. Garnet a negro, Elihu Burritt, Mr. Hindley of Oldham, M. Garnier one of the Secretaries, Dr. Buller from America, the Rev.

M. Copway a native chief of the Chippeway tribe, Mr. Miall, Mr. Chipple of New York, and several others. They delivered their speeches in their respective languages, but when an oration was considered unusually important, the substance of it was given in two other languages by competent interpreters. The last meeting was held on the 24th; on this occasion thanks were voted to the municipal authorities of Frankfort for their kind reception of the members of the Congress; and Mr. Cobden caused infinite delight and astonishment by acting as fugleman to an English "Hip, hip, hurrah!" demonstration of gratitude. A resolution to publish the proceedings at three) kreutzers (about twopence), terminated the meeting. Next ye ar the Congress is to be held in London.

The accounts from *New York* are to the 14th inst. A bill has been passed by both houses of Congress to establish a territorial government in New Mexico. The senate have passed the Fugitive Slave Bill, the object of which is to provide for the settlement of questions respecting fugitive slaves. These make all the bills which were incorporated in that of the Compromise. The bills passed are the Utah Bill, the Texas Boundary Bill, the Admission of California Bill, the Territorial government for New Mexico Bill, and the Fugitive Slaves Bill. The following are the principal provisions of this last-mentioned important measure:—

The judges of the United States' District Courts, or their commissioners, in every county within their district, shall hear and summarily determine all cases of claim made by the owner for his *Fugitive Slave*. The deposition or affidavit of owner, or other satisfactory testimony, sworn to before a magistrate, according to the law of the state whence the slave escaped, shall be held sufficient to establish the right of property and to authorise the arrest and reconveyance of the fugitive to the state whence he or she may have fled; but in no trial or hearing under this act shall the testimony of the alleged fugitive be admitted in evidence. Any person aiding or abetting the escape, or interposing to prevent the arrest and reconveyance, will be subject to a fine not exceeding 1000 dollars, and to imprisonment not exceeding six months, besides forfeiting 1000 dollars by way of civil damages to the party injured. In case of affidavit being made by the claimant of a fugitive that he has reason to apprehend a rescue before he can reconvey such fugitive beyond the border of the state in which the arrest may have been made, it shall be the duty of the officer making the arrest to retain the fugitive in his custody, to personally remove him to the state whence he fled, and then to deliver him to said claimant or his attorney. To this end the officer is authorised and required to summon such assistance as may enable him efficiently to perform this duty. Finally, should such fugitive, subsequently to his arrest, be rescued by force from those having him or her in custody, and the rescue be proven to have been without collusion on the part of the owner, then the said owner shall be paid from the public treasury the value of said fugitive, and the amount paid (which is to be limited) shall be recovered by the general government from the state or territory in which the rescue was effected.

The present state of *Slavery in the United States* is illustrated by several recent circumstances mentioned in the American newspapers. An insurrection, in which 400 slaves were to be engaged, was discovered at Lowndes County, Alabama, some weeks since. The rendezvous of the negroes was fired upon by the whites, killing one slave and wounding twenty others. The slaves then fled. It is said that the slaves were incited to the insurrection by an abolitionist, for whose apprehension a reward of 6000 dollars has been offered. A general massacre is supposed to have been intended.—The runaway slaves have been so numerous of late, that the owners have become very much alarmed, and hence are disposed to remove them to safer parts of the United States, or to sell them to slave traders. The family of William Williams, the coachman of Presidents Polk, Taylor, and Fillmore, were suddenly, on Friday morning, seized by a slave trader and taken from their homes in Washington, to be sent to New Orleans. His wife, over fifty years of age, three daughters, and three grandchildren, were thus snatched from him in an hour to a fate worse to him than death, to be sold in the South to the highest bidder, and separated from him and each other. The poor man was nearly crazed by the dreadful parting. After many years' toil he very recently purchased his own freedom, but his family were owned by some one in New Orleans. The President, feeling deeply for his distress, gave him money, and let him go to see them again. Williams found the trader would take the sum of 3200 dollars for them, and he returned with the hope of raising that amount here to redeem them. The President, Mr. Webster, General Scott, and a number of Senators, members, and citizens, have contributed sums from five to fifty dollars. Mr. Corcoran gave 200 dollars, which was the price asked for the aged wife, and he made her "free" at once. Besides doing this, Mr. Corcoran has purchased one of the women, who has lived in his family for some years, Mrs. Commander Paterson another, and Mrs. General Towson a third, who lived with her some years past. So the children, for whom 1500 dollars were asked, only remained to be purchased by their grandfather, who is said to be in a fair way of raising the money.

Professor Webster, convicted of the *Murder of Dr. Parkman*, was executed at Boston on the 30th. According to the American practice the execution took place within the prison walls, in the presence of certain citizens chosen as witnesses. This, however, did not prevent the display of the curiosity always exhibited on such occasions by the public. A local paper says:—"The rear of the houses in Lowell Street looked into the gaol-yard, and both the windows and roofs of some of them were packed with persons of both sexes, and of all ages. It grieved me to see ladies and young girls manifest their morbid curiosity in this way. I am happy in being able to say, however, that three of those houses were shut by the occupants, who went out of town rather than witness the execution, or be in the vicinity of the place when the solemn preparations were being made, and where a fellow-being was to expiate his crimes by a violent death. If I had had time I would have procured the numbers of those houses, and the names of their occupants, and inserted both in this report. On the door of one of these houses a bill was posted to this effect: 'Not at home; opposed to capital punishment.'" It seems untrue that Webster made a second confession, admitting the commission of a premeditated murder. It is stated, on the contrary, that immediately before his death, he expressed his adhesion to his statement that the deed was not premeditated. It appears, however, that the general opinion in the United States is, that the murder of Dr. Parkman was premeditated, and that the verdict of the jury was in accordance with the facts of the case.

Jenny Lind arrived at New York on the 1st inst., and was received with the most extravagant demonstrations of enthusiasm. On the following day, it is stated, 800 American ladies paid their respects to her. The day for commencing her concerts had not been fixed.

There are accounts from *San Francisco* to the 1st of August. Emigration to California is still on the increase; hundreds were daily flocking to the diggings by way of Panama and across the plains from the southern states of America. The rivers during the winter months being so high have prevented many adventurers from working to any advantage. At the beginning of the dry season, in May, dams were commenced across the different rivers, with the intention to turn them completely from their course, but the dams as soon as formed were washed away. It is in the beds and on the banks of rivers that most gold has hitherto been found. The mode of appropriating land is a curious one, each person being allowed on arrival to stake off ten paces of ground till the whole river or ravine is taken up. At Dew Creek, emptying into the Yuba river, gold has been found in the highest mountains to an enormous extent; after digging some 80 or 90 feet, a vein of gold was struck yielding from six to eight ounces per man per day, and with every prospect of its continuing. One man sold his claim (ten paces) for 20,000 dollars. The mountains near the Sierra Nevada also proved very rich, two men having averaged 7 lb. a day for several days.

The intended road across the Isthmus of Panama from

Navy Bay had been commenced by the American Company, hundreds of labourers having arrived there from Carthagena and the surrounding country.

There are accounts from *San José*, the capital of the South American State of Costa Rica, of the 11th of June. General Don J. M. Castro, the founder of this republic, had resigned his presidency and embarked for Europe, in order to study the institutions of the Old World, and to promote the welfare of his country by laying open its resources to commercial and agricultural enterprise. The President's administration appears to have been wise and liberal. He has introduced ample religious toleration; the right to all foreigners of being naturalised; and the total abolition of slavery and the slave-trade. Under his administration treaties of amity and commerce have been concluded with Great Britain and other powers. The state of Costa Rica is situate west of Panama, on the great barrier dividing the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It contains from 2500 to 3000 square leagues. It is bounded on the N.E. by the Atlantic, on the S.E. by the Pacific. The population is above 100,000. The commerce of this country is chiefly carried on with Great Britain in British bottoms. During the years 1848-9 the arrivals at Punta Arenas amounted to seventy ships, with a total of 7188 tons of merchandise. The development of commerce is at present paralysed by the long and expensive voyage round Cape Horn, as many of the productions of Costa Rica fitting for the markets of Europe, cannot bear the heavy charges on exportation by that route. The exportation in 1848 amounted to 150,000 quintals of coffee, 10,000 hides, a considerable quantity of mother-o'-pearl, sarsaparilla and dye-wood, and a small lot of pearls from Golfo Dulce and Nicoya. The state of Nicaragua is wholly supplied with tobacco from Costa Rica; tortoise-shell is also exported in considerable quantities. The annual value of importations amounts to 1,000,000 of dollars, including 200,000 dollars from Nicaragua. Some gold mines are now being worked, and there are many others of copper exceedingly rich, of coal, nickel, zinc, iron, and lead mixed with silver, but they are neglected for want of capital. Traffic is at present carried on by the Port of Punta Arenas, on the Pacific Ocean, to which port a good carriage-road has been completed from the capital, a distance of seventy-two miles. Obstacles which would have deterred a less patriotic administration from the undertaking were surmounted by President Castro in the construction of this road. Forests, and mountains attaining an elevation of 4500 feet, were cut through; deep ravines and impetuous torrents were overcome; and five excellent stone bridges thrown across the route, at an expense of 150,000 dollars.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

THE names of the Commissioners for inquiring into the state, discipline, studies, and revenues, of the Universities and Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, have proved a guarantee for the earnestness and good faith of the promoters of the inquiry. No friend to the real interests of either University need have any fear of committing them to the decision of such men as Sir John Herschell and Doctor Peacock; or as Doctor Jeune, Mr. Liddell, and Mr. Sacheverell Johnson; or as Professors Powell and Sedgwick. The effect is already felt, and the howl of resistance sensibly diminished. Sedatives of a satisfactory kind have also been applied to another as bitterly agitated question, and the reading-room of the British Museum is now enriched with a manuscript catalogue bringing up the arrears of books to the latest practicable date, in a hundred and fifty-three manuscript volumes. This, to which a duplicate copy is added, is in addition to other catalogues, printed and in manuscript, already existing; and is further re-inforced by a catalogue of the munificent bequest of the Grenville library, hitherto closed to the public by the absence of that accommodation. Thus has been wisely substituted for a matter of very just complaint what must be termed even a source of national pride, for it may be doubted if facilities of access equal to these exist in any other great library in Europe. A third subject connected with literature of considerable present interest is that of the possibility of securing any English copyright in a book written by a citizen of America, or any other alien. The question is again to be brought before a court of law; but if the issue be taken largely on the construction of the Act of Anne, and not on any such incidental point as the claim of a particular author to the rights of English citizenship, there can hardly be a doubt but that the latest and most authoritative decision, pronounced two years ago in the Court of Exchequer, will be finally affirmed. There can be no assignment of a thing that has no existence; copyright has now no existence in England, except under the Act of Anne; and no one who has carefully read that statute can have failed to arrive at the conclusion that its operation is strictly and exclusively limited to English authors.

The month just passed has maintained its reputation as the dullest of the literary year. Hardly a book worth naming has been published in it. A second series of Mr. Jesse's gossiping anecdotes of *London and its Celebrities*; two re-publications from America, one a book called *Berber* (a romance of which a parcel of Barbary corsairs are the heroes, not at all worthy of the happy extravagance of the author of *Kaloolah*), and the other a diary of *Rural Hours*, by the daughter of Mr. Fenimore Cooper, in which the scenery and social characteristics of a village in a New York county are rather nicely hit off; a translation from the German of somewhat similar *Pictures of Rural Life in Austria and Hungary*, with a mixture of rich scenery and romantic incident that reminds one now and then of Mrs. Radcliffe; a capital tract on the *Mosaic Sabbath*, in which the good sense as well as learning of the subject is exhausted; and some few volumes on subjects of medical treatment, interesting only to practitioners in medicine; are the sole publications of the month of which any mention falls strictly within the purpose or intention of this record. Already, however, notes of preparation promise a busy autumn, both east and west of Temple Bar; and the present dearth will doubtless make next month's harvest all the more abundant.

The Gazette of Tuesday the 3rd inst. contains the lists of the separate commissions appointed by Her Majesty to inquire into the state, discipline, studies, and revenues, of the two *Universities of Oxford and Cambridge*. For the Oxford Commission—The Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Norwich; the Very Rev. Archibald Campbell Tait, D.C.L., Dean of Carlisle; the Rev. Francis Jeune, D.C.L., Master of Pembroke College, in the University of Oxford; the Rev. Henry George Liddell, M.A., Head Master of St. Peter's College, Westminster; John Lucius Dampier, Esq., M.A., Vice-Warden of the Stannaries of Cornwall; the Rev. Baden Powell, M.A., Savillian Professor of Geometry in the University of Oxford; and the Rev. George Henry Sacheverell Johnson, M.A., of Queen's College, in the University of Oxford. For the Cambridge Commission—The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chester; the Very Rev. George Peacock, D.D., Dean of Ely; Sir John Frederick William Herschell, Bart.; Sir John Romilly, Knight, her Majesty's Attorney-General; and the Rev.

Adam Sedgwick, M.A., Woodwardian Professor of Geology in the University of Cambridge.

The *Society of Arts* has issued a notice, intimating that, as the Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations in 1851 has rendered it superfluous for the Society to pursue its ordinary course by the offer of its usual prizes, the Council are of opinion that it will be most useful for them to encourage the production of philosophical treatises on the various departments of the Exhibition, which shall set forth the peculiar advantages to be derived from each to the arts, manufactures, and commerce of the country. They, therefore, offer the Society's large medal and 25*l.* for the best, and the small medal and 10*l.* for the second best, several treatises on the objects exhibited in the section of raw materials and produce, the section of machinery, the section of manufactures, and the section of the fine arts. Each treatise must occupy, and not exceed, 80 pages of the size of the Bridgewater Treatises, and must be delivered on or before the 30th of June, 1851. The Society will also award its large medal and 25 guineas for the best general treatise upon the Exhibition, treated commercially, politically, and statistically; and small medals for the best treatises on any special objects or class of objects exhibited. The treatises for which rewards are given are to be the property of the Society; and if deemed suitable for publication, should the council see fit, they will cause the same to be printed and published, and will award to the author the net amount of any profits which may arise from the publication after the payment of the expenses.

The *Gloucester Musical Festival* was held on the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th, instant. The performances were on a great scale, but destitute of any novel feature. The collections for the charity amounted to 864*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, being 100*l.* more than was received at the last Gloucester Festival.

The *Eisteddfod*, or congress of Welsh bards and minstrels, was held at Rhuddlan on the 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th. It was got up with great splendour, and attended by a large assemblage of the nobility and gentry of the principality.

The *Submarine Electric Telegraph* between the English and French coasts, was successfully laid down on the 28th of August. The points chosen were Shakspeare's Cliff at Dover and the opposite chalk headland of Cape Grisnez on the French coast midway between Calais and Boulogne. The operations were conducted from the Goliah steamboat. Between the paddle-wheels in the centre of the vessel, was a gigantic drum or wheel, nearly fifteen feet long and seven feet in diameter, weighing seven tons, and fixed on a strong framework. Upon it was coiled up in close convolutions about thirty miles of telegraphic wire, encased in a covering of gutta percha. The connexion of the thirty miles of wire enclosed in gutta percha was made good to three hundred yards of the same wire enclosed in a leaden tube, to protect it from being chafed by the shingle on the beach and in the shallow water. The Goliah then steamed forward at the rate of about three or four miles an hour, in a direct line to Cape Grisnez. The great drum was put in corresponding motion, and from it the wire was paid off over a roller at the stern of the vessel. At every two-hundred-and-twentieth yard (one-sixteenth of a mile), the square leaden clumps, weighing some twenty pounds, were rivetted to the wire to sink it well to the bottom, and to assist in embedding it in the submarine soil. The depth of the water varies between one hundred and one hundred and eighty feet; but at certain points there are ridges and valleys which made the sinking of the wire one of careful management. Between two of these ridges, well known to sailors, and called by the French the Colbart and the Varne, is a steep valley surrounded by shifting sands, many miles in length, parallel to the shores; and in these sands, as with the voracious Goodwins, ships encounter danger from losing their anchors, and fishermen lose their nets. The wire was successfully plunged to the bottom, however, safe equally from ships' anchors, sailors' nets, or monsters of the deep. The remainder of the route was safely and slowly traversed, and the Goliah reached the French coast about eight o'clock in the evening. In half-an-hour the wire had been carried ashore and run up the face of the cliff, and messages had been carried from end to end of the wire. A few days afterwards it was discovered that the wire had been cut asunder among the rocks at Cape Grisnez, the leaden tube in which it was enclosed having been too soft to protect it from injury. The communication between the coasts has been consequently suspended till means of greater security are adopted.

The operation of *Throwing down a portion of the Cliff* near Seaford by an explosion of gunpowder, was successfully performed on the 19th. Its object was to project a part of the cliff, above 200 feet high, upon the beach, so as to constitute a groin for the protection of vessels. Several immense charges, containing many thousand pounds of powder, were deposited under the cliffs, and ignited by voltaic batteries. There was no very loud report; the rumbling noise was probably not heard a mile off, and was perhaps caused by the splitting of the cliff and fall of the fragments. There seemed to be no smoke, but there was a tremendous shower of dust. Those who were in boats a little way out felt a slight shock. It was much stronger on the top of the cliff. Persons standing there felt staggered by the shaking of the ground, and one of the batteries was thrown down by it. In Seaford, too, three quarters of a mile off, glasses upon the table were shaken, and one chimney fell. At Newhaven, a distance of three miles, the shock was sensibly felt. The effect of the explosion was stupendous. The chalky cliff cracked along a frontage of more than a hundred feet; and then the whole mass of the precipice seemed to crumble into pieces and fall into the sea. The dislodged mass formed a bank about three hundred feet broad and nearly three hundred long towards the sea, and about a hundred feet high.

The government have completed the purchase of all the ground and property requisite for the construction of the *New Harbour of Holyhead*; and the whole of the works will now be pushed forward with the utmost expedition, nearly 1500 men being constantly engaged in the various operations. The engineers are proceeding rapidly with the extension of the sea-walls at the Northern breakwater, and are also proceeding with the erection of the stages. Many thousands of cubic feet of stone are now ready for the commencement and erection of the immense sea-wall, and fresh supplies are daily obtained from the lofty heights that overhang the harbour, where extensive quarrying operations are carried on. The material thus obtained is thrown down into the breakwater, in masses from ten to fifty feet in thickness. The estimated coast of this new harbour, which will give 316 acres of sea-room, is 700,000*l.*

Canal Locks have been Superseded by the introduction of an inclined plane, on which the boats can be drawn up to the proper level by means of a stationary steam-engine. This new process was put to the test on the 24th of August, at the Blackhill Locks, on the Forth and Clyde Canal. The result was most satisfactory; three boats having been drawn up in less than five minutes, while to have made them pass through the locks would have taken half an hour.

Mr. Hind, the astronomer, has given an account of the discovery of a *New Planet*, made by him on the evening of the 13th. It is in the constellation Pegasus, and appears like a star of the ninth magnitude, with a pale bluish light. At 11 h. 29 m. 36 sec., Greenwich time, on the 13th, its right ascension was 23 h. 44 m. 45·08 sec., and its North declination 14° 6′ 42·9″; at 8 h. 28 m. 24 sec., on the 14th, its right ascension was 23 h. 44 m. 2·56 sec., and its North declination 13° 50′ 29·3″. Mr. Hind says, "This new member of the solar system forms the twelfth of the group of ultra-zodiacal planets, the third of which I have been fortunate enough to discover in the course of a rigorous examination of the heavens." He proposes to name it "Victoria," and to symbolise it by "a star surmounted by a laurel branch."

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of August 30. ROBERT BARKER and HENRY DAVEY, Bicester, Oxfordshire, drapers.—WILLIAM JEFFERSON, Hull, painter.—ROBERT M'DOWALL, Worthing, Sussex, draper.—WILLIAM MILLER and ALEXANDER MILLER, Liverpool, and Bootle, Lancashire, wine merchants.—CHARLES PORTER, Bocking, Essex, grocer.—VIRGIL JAMES POWELL, King's Place, Commercial Road East, tobacco manufacturer.—ROBERT SMITH, Liverpool, tavern keeper.—JOHN SNOWBALL, Gateshead, Durham, builder.—SAMUEL WILSON, Wolverhampton, grocer.

September 3. ALFRED CRANSTON, Wimborne Minster Dorsetshire, cabinet maker.—STEPHEN CHARLES LAKEMAN, St. Mildred's Court, City, commission agent.—GEORGE NORTON, Cadford Saint Mary, Wiltshire, plumber.—JAMES PRIESTLEY, Radcliffe, Lancashire, cotton spinner.

September 6. THOMAS BRADLEY, Ranelagh Road, Pimlico, lard refiner.—GEORGE FRIEND, Kidderminster, bookseller.—JOHN STORK, Hull, wine and spirit merchant.—WILLIAM THOMAS, Southrop, Gloucestershire, baker.—WILLIAM WARD, Liverpool, victualler.

September 10. JOSEPH BROWN, Gravesend, grocer.—JOSEPH CHARLES BYRNE, Pall Mall East, and Sun Court, Cornhill, emigration agent.—JOHN DAWSON, Northfleet, Kent; Mitre-court Chambers, Temple; and Clement's-lane, Lombard-street City, shipowner.—RICHARD GADSDEN, Boughton Mill, Northamptonshire, miller.—JOHN HALL, Brighton, victualler.—ISAAC JESSUP, Kingsdown, Kent, farmer.—DANIEL RADFORD and GAD SOUTHALL, Gracechurch-street, City, coal merchants.—SUMMERLAND STANIFORD, Plymouth, innkeeper.

September 13. THOMAS BOOKER, sen. and THOMAS BOOKER, jun. Mark-lane, City, merchants.—CHARLES CUTHBERT, Kennington-cross, corn-dealer.—JAMES HUSSEY, Poole, linen-draper.—WILLIAM JEFFERSON, Hull, painter.—GEORGE KETCHER, Asheldham, Essex, innkeeper.—JAMES TOOVEY, Watford, Hertfordshire, innkeeper.—ROBERT WESTLEY, Greenwich, bootmaker.

September 17. JAMES BENSLEY LARKE, Norwich, draper.—ELIAS MARCUS, Vincent-street, Limehouse, and Stepney, builder.—JOHN SAVILL, St. Neot's, Huntingdonshire, draper.—EDWARD PALFREY SIMMONDS, Highgate, Warwickshire, commercial traveller.—ABRAHAM SOLOMONS, Basinghall-street, City, merchant.—JOSEPH TURNER, Eastbourne, Sussex, grocer.

September 20. JAMES ATKINSON, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, victualler.—JAMES BENNETT, Hayhill, Berkeley-square, builder.—HENRY WARD FARRER, Old Fish-street, City, wine-merchant.—SAMUEL FRANCE, Bradford, Yorkshire, grocer.—BENJAMIN HOPKINSON BATES, Liverpool, merchant.—WILLIAM HUNTLEY, Hart-street, Covent-garden, licensed victualler.—RICHARD WILSON JEWISON and EDWARD ATKINSON, Charlotte-terrace, New Cut, Lambeth, linendrapers.—WILLIAM PIKE, Reading, Berkshire, tobacconist.—FREDERIC VINES and THOMAS KITELEE, Greenwich, millers.—GEORGE WALKER, Philpot-lane, City, merchant.

September 24. MARY BAKEWELL, Manchester, size manufacturer.—RICHARD BATTERSBY and JAMES TELFORD, Liverpool, iron-founders.—JOHN JOWETT and THOMAS JOWETT, Coventry, grocers.—WILLIAM LUPTON LOWE, Salford, Lancashire, victualler.—CHARLES RICHMOND POTTINGER, Hardwick-place, Commercial-road east, wine and spirit merchant.—WILLIAM RICHARDS, Devonport, printer.—JOSEPH SEELIE, Freeschool-street, Horsleydown, rectifier.—JAMES TAYLOR, Rochdale, cottou spinner.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

Sept. 10.—HENRY ASHBEE, Kingscote, Gloucestershire, innkeeper.

Sept. 20.—WILLIAM ASH, Henry-street, Hampstead-road, plumber.

THE STOCK AND SHARE MARKETS.

City, Sept. 27.

During the early part of the mouth the business in the English Stock Market was moderately active, but for the last fortnight very little has been done either for speculation or investment, and prices have remained almost stationary. Our last review left Consols at $96\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, from which price there was little variation till the 8th inst., when they became rather weaker, and declined to 96. Since then the market has been steadier, and the price is quoted this day $96\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$. The transfer books of the Reduced 3 per Cents, and the $3\frac{1}{4}$ per Cents, and two or three other stocks, are shut for the dividend: they will re-open on the 18th Oct.

In the Railway Share Market this has been a month of great excitement and fluctuation. Extensive purchases have been made and the prices of nearly all the chief stocks have experienced a very considerable rise, which, notwithstanding a temporary re-action, is well maintained; the tone of the market to-day being firm, and prices still looking up.

STOCKS.

	Prices during the Month.		
	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols	$96\frac{5}{8}$	96	$96\frac{5}{8}$
Three per Cent. Reduced	$97\frac{1}{2}$	$96\frac{3}{4}$	shut
Three and a quarter per Cents.	$99\frac{1}{2}$	$98\frac{3}{4}$	shut
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860	$8\frac{5}{16}$	$8\frac{1}{4}$	shut
Bank Stock	216	213	214
India Stock	$267\frac{1}{8}$	264	$267\frac{1}{8}$
South Sea Stock	$105\frac{3}{4}$	$105\frac{3}{4}$	$105\frac{3}{4}$
Exchequer Bills	68*s.* prm.	63*s.* prm	66*s.* prm.
India Bonds	89*s.* prm.	83*s.* prm.	86*s.* prm.

RAILWAYS.

Paid.		Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
100	Bristol and Exeter	68	$61\frac{1}{2}$	68
50	Caledonian	$8\frac{5}{8}$	$7\frac{3}{8}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$
20	Eastern Counties	$6\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{7}{8}$	$5\frac{7}{8}$
24	Great Northern	$11\frac{7}{8}$	$9\frac{1}{8}$	$11\frac{3}{4}$
100	Great N. of England	242	240	242
100	Great Western	$73\frac{1}{2}$	$58\frac{1}{4}$	$71\frac{1}{2}$
50	Hull and Selby	$97\frac{1}{2}$	$94\frac{1}{2}$	95
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	49	$39\frac{1}{2}$	$47\frac{1}{2}$
50	Leeds and Bradford	$96\frac{1}{4}$	92	92
100	London and Brighton	$85\frac{1}{2}$	$79\frac{1}{4}$	$83\frac{3}{4}$
100	London and North Western	$115\frac{1}{2}$	$109\frac{1}{4}$	$114\frac{1}{4}$
100	London and S. Western	73	$62\frac{1}{2}$	$69\frac{1}{2}$
100	Midland	$40\frac{3}{4}$	33	$40\frac{1}{2}$
$17\frac{1}{2}$	North Staffordshire	$7\frac{1}{4}$	$6\frac{1}{4}$	7
$33\frac{1}{3}$	South Eastern	$20\frac{1}{4}$	$15\frac{1}{3}$	$20\frac{1}{8}$
25	York, Newcastle, and Berwick	$16\frac{7}{8}$	$14\frac{5}{8}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$
50	York and North Midland	$20\frac{1}{4}$	$15\frac{1}{4}$	$20\frac{1}{4}$

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Sept. 26.

The corn market has not been characterised by any important movement during the present month. The prices of wheat have been very firm, and the rates for home growth rule at present a shade above those of August. The London weekly averages last announced are as follow:—

Wheat, per quarter, 46*s.* 11*d.*
Oats, 19*s.* 8*d.*
Rye, 28*s.* 1*d.*
Barley, 27*s.* 8*d.*
Beans, 28*s.* 8*d.*

Peas, 32*s.* 1*d.*
Flour, Town made, delivered, per 280 lb., 36*s.* to 38*s.*
" American, per barrel, of 196 lb., 20*s.* to 24*s.*

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt.—Waterford, 46*s.* to 58*s.*; Belfast, 48*s.* to 50*s.*
Beef, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*
Butter, per cwt., Cork, 1st, 80*s.* to 81*s.*; Carlow, 1st, 76*s.* to 80*s.*; Limerick, 1st, 72*s.* to 76*s.*; prime Dorset, 78*s.* to 82*s.*; Dutch Friesland, 78*s.* to 80*s.*; Fresh, 8*s.* to 10*s.* per 12 lbs.
Cheese, per cwt., new Cheshire, 42*s.* to 67*s.*; new Wiltshire double, 44*s.* to 54*s.*; Dutch, old Gouda, 32*s.* to 36*s.*
Eggs, English, 6*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* per 100.
Hams, per cwt.—Limerick, 64*s.* to 70*s.*; Belfast, 58*s.* to 64*s.*; American, dried, 34*s.*; York, 60*s.* to 70*s.*
Mutton, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*
Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Regents, 50*s.* to 70*s.*; Shaws, 50*s.* to 60*s.*; Chats, 30*s.*
Pork, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 8*d.* to 4*s.* 4*d.*
Veal, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt.—Trinidad, 42*s.* to 50*s.*; Brazil, 28*s.* to 29*s.*
Coffee, per cwt.—Native Ceylon, 52*s.*; mid. to good plantation, 57*s.* 6*d.* to 75*s.*; good ord. West India, 42*s.* to 47*s.*; Mocha, 70*s.* to 75*s.*; Brazil, 39*s.* to 47*s.*
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal white, 9*s.* 6*d.* to 12*s.* 6*d.*; Madras, 8*s.* 6*d.* to 9*s.* 6*d.*; Carolina, 19*s.*
Sago, per cwt.—Pearl, 19*s.* to 24*s.*
Sugar, per cwt.—Loaves, 50*s.* to 51*s.* 6*d.*; brown to good brown Jamaica, 36*s.* to 36*s.* 6*d.*; ditto fine, 40*s.* to 41*s.* 6*d.*; Mauritius, yellow, 35*s.* 6*d.* to 40*s.*; Brazil, brown, 32*s.* to 36*s.*
Tea, per lb. (duty 2*s.* 1*d.*),—Ord. Congou, $11\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Souchong, com. to fine, 11*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*; ord. to fine Hyson, 1*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; Imperial, 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*

Candles, per 12 lbs. 4*s.* 6*d* to 5*s.*; Coals, per ton, Wallsend, 15*s.* 9*d.* to 16*s.* 9*d.*

OILS.

Pale Seal, per ton, 38*l.*
Sperm, 83*l.* to 84*l.*
Cod 35*l.*
Olive, Gallipoli, 43*l.*
Pale rape, 37*l.* to 37*l.* 10*s.*
Linseed, 32*l.* 10*s.* to 33*l.*

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THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1850.] FROM THE 29TH SEPTEMBER TO THE 28TH OCTOBER. [PRICE 2*d*.

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

THE incidents of the past month are fraught with warning to writers of history. There has been so alarming a succession of events at once strange and humiliating, and the recurrence of crime and disaster has been so revolting and incessant, that, to a statist who should merely aim at effect in the portraiture of a period, and think it fair to seize any fact, however extreme or exceptional, wherewith to form general conclusions, we might seem to have suddenly retrograded from Queen Victoria, Lord John Russell, and Doctor Sumner, to Dick Turpin, Jerry Abershaw, and the Pope. Were it possible to imagine M. Ledru Rollin, for example, inspired for the occasion by a regard to the rights of conscience and property, one might fancy him describing, for a second edition of his *Décadence de l'Angleterre*, the condition of English society, and its results during October 1850, somewhat in the following strain.

"It became at this period perfectly evident that the restraints of order and law, as well as the obligations of conscience, had lost their power over the ill-disposed. With irrepressible and insolent defiance Robbery and Murder stalked through the land. Houses were entered in the metropolis at mid-day, their inmates left half-strangled, and property of singular value carried off without hindrance. Men were waylaid in the public thoroughfares, struck into insensibility, and plundered of all they possessed. Jewellers' shops were stripped in the Strand. In broad day, in Adam Street, Adelphi, a government messenger was stopped and rifled. Highway robbery was committed in St. Paul's churchyard. Infernal machines were delivered by hand in Bermondsey. Houses were entered in the Regent's Park, and only saved from plunder by the timely and gallant resistance of the men and women servants. The counties in closest vicinity with the metropolis were over-run with thieves of the most daring kind. County magistrates went to bed with six-barrelled revolving pistols under their pillows. Bagshot was once more a solitude; and grass grew again on the old Bath road, as in the days when it made smooth trotting for the hoofs of highwaymen's horses.

"All the incidents just mentioned, and all those to be now narrated, occurred within the brief space of three weeks of the distressing period referred to. In the parsonage house of Frimley, a small village within half an hour's ride of the metropolis, a venerable clergyman was murdered in his bed by burglars detected at their midnight practices. In the same county eighteen houses had been similarly entered and robbed, and their inmates treated with violence, in less than the same number of preceding weeks; and in the neighbouring county of West Kent, ten parsonages had been plundered in less than the same number of preceding months. But the fate of the rector of Frimley seemed suddenly to let loose, simultaneously, over all the counties of England, a spirit of outrage without parallel for concentration and intensity. The *Times* devoted column after column to burglaries in the provinces. Durham and Devonshire, Lancashire and Bedford, Bucks and Staffordshire, figured in a single list served up at a morning's breakfast-table. The objects of ruffianly attack embraced prizes as various as the government mail-carts and the meanest huckster's shops; and so flushed were the rogues with their daring success, that they even broke into the Governor's house in the gaol at Worcester, and carried off the plate under the very noses of warders and turnkeys. Nothing was too high, and nothing too low, for the designs of this desperate banditti; nor could their cruelty, when unresisted, be equalled but by their cowardice when resolutely met. A girl of fourteen, armed with a brace of pistols, put some half dozen thieves to flight at Abbotskerswell, in Devon; 'O don't! for God's sake, don't shoot me!' was the supplication of a cringing thief to the butler in the Regent's Park, to which that gallant domestic responded by 'firing at his head;' a youth at Northampton sprang from bed in his shirt upon a burglar armed to the teeth, and pinned him to the earth till assistance came; and one spirited old maid proved too much for a couple of tall ruffians at Swindon in Gloucestershire. But these cases were unhappily rare; for the destruction of life at this lamentable period seemed to have been sought quite as eagerly as the abstraction of property.

"In Birmingham a gold and silver beater was struck and maimed with murderous weapons until supposed to be dead. At Bath the landlord of a tavern, and his wife, were murderously mutilated with a razor. At another hotel in Kendal, an aged dissenting minister was horribly wounded and half suffocated in his bed. A labouring man in Oxfordshire savagely murdered his wife. At a farmer's house in Laugharne two murders were committed within a few days of each other. In another part of South Wales an elderly lady was poisoned for the chance of an inheritance. At a small town in Lincolnshire a ferocious old drunkard, of seventy-three, stabbed to death a youth who would have prevented his murdering his aged partner. At Haverfordwest an old woman was found murdered in a ditch. A murdered infant was picked up in one of the most populous of the London squares; and, in Essex, a poor seduced girl and her unborn infant were mercilessly strangled. 'He has fair hair,' said the reporter of the leading journal of England, describing the seducer and supposed murderer, in the last-mentioned case, 'a brilliant florid complexion, small delicate features, regular in their contour, and a general cast of countenance very expressive of mildness and rustic innocence!' Such was the fashion at this deplorable juncture of speaking of persons charged with the most detestable crimes.

"It cannot of course be thought surprising that the whereabouts of the Police should have become matter

of anxious question, while unchecked and uninhibited violence thus raged throughout the kingdom. The cost of guardianship being not less than 17,000*l.* a year in the county of all others the least effectually guarded, such a question became extremely natural; but, alas! the discovery was soon made, that the paid conservators of order and decency, at this distressing period, had not been able to escape its general demoralisation. Concurrently with the acts just recorded, a series of acts of criminal outrage upon the public peace were proved against its very custodians themselves. While the unhappy goldbeater of Birmingham was under the furious bludgeons of his assailants, two 'experienced officers,' a sub-inspector and a sergeant, were proved to have stood within sight and hearing of the outrage, and, in reply to entreaties from the daughter of the victim, to have refused interference with what might be merely, for what they knew, an act of highly proper chastisement! In the same week, in the centre of English civilisation, three very gross and wicked offences were proved against members of the metropolitan force; and one of its superior officers was charged with manslaughter by a coroner's jury, for having beaten and maltreated to death an industrious inoffensive artisan. But the general disorganisation of society exhibited appearances even more alarming. It was not simply to the lower servants of the law, but to its highest administrators, even to its makers and judges, that the scandal of this unhappy time extended. An Ex-Lord-High-Chancellor of England was fined for unlawful practices with fishing-nets; and a Nobleman in the most exalted rank of the peerage assaulted, without provocation, two wayfaring young collegians whom he encountered by chance (and without his trowsers) in what the law of the land had declared to be a public pathway, but which he insanely imagined he had as much right to shut up, as to lock up his own nether garments.

"Nay, not even here did the marks of universal degradation cease. What had heretofore been considered the most stubborn bulwark of English independence was now discovered to have been equally undermined. A hope prevailed that the daring spirit of burglary would have found some check in the difficulty of disposing of the property and plate which were its spoils; but a man of the highest respectability in the City, a bullion broker of forty years' standing in Barbican, a man who had amassed enormous wealth without forfeiting the respect of his fellow citizens, was suddenly discovered in close correspondence with gangs of provincial burglars, who had thus found safe and unsuspected market for their villainous trade. Nor were encouragements to misdoing in any degree less wanting, either from those who administered what was called justice, or from those in whose behalf it was administered. While magistrates failed properly to discriminate the grades of guilt in criminals, society as little perceived the danger of misplaced sympathy with crime itself. Charitable people with money to bestow, lavished it on those who had yielded to temptation and made poverty the excuse for theft; while the patient and long suffering class whom temptation had found firm, were left to perish on all sides around them. In Staffordshire a labouring man was as heavily punished for setting snares, and beating with a dog, as one of the highway tramps for an act of thieving, as well as beating of a very different order; and, by a bench of Squire Westerns in Westmoreland, the value of a dissenting minister's life seemed to be judged pretty nearly on a par with the worth of a brass pan.

"In short, but for the unquestionable authenticity of the records preserved of this extraordinary crisis in the British history, the relation of it would be utterly incredible. Whether the scene be the heart of the metropolitan city, or the wilds of an Irish county, the inquirer is shocked and disgusted alike by the same absence of all the signs or fruits of civilisation. Children and grown men were dying of absolute starvation in the public roads of the County of Clare, at the very time when crossing-sweepers of Baker Street were leaving large fortunes behind them. St. Luke's in England was filled with people capable of the most rational enjoyments, whose innocent and pleasant recreations the journals duly chronicled; while a parcel of hot-headed Presbyterians and hair-brained Roman Catholics were left free to agitate Ireland for the restoration of her prosperous days, by bawling for the annihilation of every holder of property. The art of Mutuality, or the Means of Trading Without Capital, was at the same time regularly taught in both countries by societies invented for the express purpose of plunder; and four City of London firms with very sounding titles appear to have carried on the invention with moderate success in 'a single apartment in a sort of public house' in St. Martin's Court. All over the counties of England, concurrently with these events, arose the flames of incendiary fires; and even claims the most monstrous were set up to a sort of vested interest in the profits of calamity. A band of fishermen on the Norfolk coast asserted their right to a beneficial tithe of every wreck upon their shore, by going off in their boats like so many savages of the Pacific, and committing desperate assault on a steamer hired by the owners of the wreck for its rescue. Other as intemperate wretches drank themselves to death from the spoils of a shipwreck washed on the coast of Liverpool; and at the same wreck, on that same full-frequented hospitable coast, even the gallantest, best paid, and till then most unfailing service of humanity was abandoned, and hapless creatures clinging to the sinking shrouds saw their last hope perish within sight of its fulfilment, by the cowardly retreat of the Liverpool life-boat before an ordinarily-tempestuous sea. Even to seamen of the higher rank the panic of the time extended; and the commander of a steamer in the English channel, after running his ship on its most formidable reef of rocks with a sacrifice of eleven lives, in a calm sunny day, was the first to desert the ship he had imperilled for the supposed shelter of a boat, which he swamped by suddenly leaping into it in search of despicable safety.

"Do these read like the records of a civilised land? Yet not even here are we permitted to close our reiteration of barbarous events in the same single month of the eighteen hundred and fiftieth year of the Christian dispensation. In this so-called Christian period, a man in a fair way of trade had to answer the indictment of his parish for refusing to support his aged mother; and a lodging-house keeper in Kent Street did not hesitate to dispossess himself of a half-dying tenant, in arrear of rent, by dragging him naked out of his sick bed, bastinadoing him down the stairs with a heavy bludgeon, and thrusting him without covering into the public streets, bleeding and insensible. 'Gruel indeed! what next?' asked the wife of a master-tailor in Whitechapel who was working and starving his apprentice to death, when the lad drooped at length under his labour of near eighteen hours a day, and required other nourishment than 'tea and dripping.' Then, of course, very speedily, the *What next?* came, and the poor creature welcomed it with the affecting cry of 'Oh! God has heard my prayer!' Even children from six to ten years had caught the infection of hardness and guilt, and were as resolute and insolent in the docks of the police courts as the most veteran offenders. Nor this alone with children bred to neglect and shame. Thirty-three boys, well born and carefully nurtured, had to be suddenly removed from one of the most important schools of discipline in the kingdom, with

their characters indelibly blackened. The most appalling stories were also told in the police offices, of public lodging-houses crammed with both sexes in streets behind one of the greatest London thoroughfares, where ninety creatures were wont to pass the night in a house without proper accommodation for nine, and where the rooms overflowed with night-soil. Nor, as if to prove even such horrors capable of aggravation, was there wanting the contrast of scandalous waste beside these pictures of destitute misery. Two or three days after refusing to let a vote be passed for occasional loan of a book from the city library to a studiously-inclined member of corporation, the common councillors of the city of London voted five hundred and twenty-seven thousand pounds for the continued support of the abominations of a cattle market in the heart of their crowded streets!

"What, meanwhile, was the spiritual condition of the country thus overburdened with folly and crime? We may obtain, perhaps, some approximative notion of it by taking the prison commitments of an important county for the twelve months immediately preceding. They exhibit eight hundred and thirty souls made amenable during that time to such laws as prevailed. One-third of these had never attended a place of any kind in which a form of divine worship of any description prevailed. Nearly one-half had never learned to read. Seven hundred and fifty forlorn wretches among the number were found able to repeat the Lord's Prayer, but nearly four hundred of them possessed not the slightest notion of its meaning. Six hundred and twenty-two could repeat the Apostles' Creed, but of these more than one-sixth had no knowledge of the nature, the works, or even the name of Christ. No one, at the same time, could feel the least surprise at this, who knew how the spiritual teachers of the day passed their time, and the subjects in which alone they took interest. They had long abandoned every effort to enlighten the rational beliefs or inculcate the practical duties, for eager discussion of such questions as whether sermons should be delivered in a surplice, or candles lighted at the communion-table; and at what period of the rite of baptism the babe was saved from sin's eternal penalties; and whether Church could act independently of State, and if State had power to sit in judgment on Church? And while the garrison thus quarrelled and disputed, lo! the enemy were thundering at the gates.

"The state of England in the nineteenth century had retrograded, in a word, to that of Britain at the close of the sixth century. Of the latter period the chroniclers record that the clergy seldom troubled themselves much with preaching the faith either to the ignorant Britons or the heathen Saxons, whereupon Pope Gregory the Great was moved by divine inspiration to undertake the conversion of the island by sending over more worthy preachers; and over there came accordingly a monk, subsequently bishop and archbishop, and invested with plenary power over twelve other bishopries, into which this kingdom was then and there divided by order of his Holiness. After a lapse of twelve centuries and a half, exactly the same thing now occurred; but, unhappily for this offending and miserable people, what in its origin was an effort of retrieval, in its renewal was but the penalty of sin. The intervening centuries counted backward, to depth after depth of degradation; and in more than equal proportion to the blessings of Christianity which Gregory the Great diffused by a movement of divine inspiration, were the scandals of Popery which Pius the Little inflicted by means of Doctor Nicolas Wiseman. No sooner had the new Cardinal Archbishop arrived within the precincts of his Archiepiscopal diocese, than a compact band of infuriated Westminster doctors of the faith about to be displaced, including one archdeacon, five canons, and an infinite number of rectors, vicars, subdeans, precentors, minor canons, professors of divinity, incumbents, and curates, rose *en masse* under the leadership of the Reverend William Sewell, and ——————"

Cetera desunt.

So might the history of our time be written, with not a word of falsehood in the facts, and with not a word of truth in the inferences. For let the reader take breath, and continue of good heart. The final sentence against Old England still waits to be pronounced. We have not yet become the serfs of an Italian priest, nor yet are we obliged to beg our daily bread from the barbarous Russian. The cheerful arithmetic of our *Household Words* Lord Granby rejects as distasteful; but to deplore and bemoan a system which is fast ruining the country solely by relieving its pressure of taxation, is an innocent comfort which no one need grudge to that extremely self-sufficient young nobleman. Even Lord Stanley begins to have hopes of us; and to admit that "the agricultural interest" and "the good of the community" may be separable things. It is true that certain elderly authorities which warn us of a plague as the first fruit of next year's Exhibition, also tell us that Free Trade is responsible for all the murders and burglaries. But, on the other hand, the worthy Mr. Recorder Hill discovers an origin for them less far a-field, and has set a number of intelligent writers on an eager discussion of their remedy.

Thus already evil turns to good; and it will be safe to predict that, of the crime whose alarming frequency during the past month struck every one with so much terror, what remains a few months hence will be but the wholesome example of its detection and punishment. For it is not that such depravity in far greater excess has not heretofore existed, but that it has never been seen in such startling contrast to the amendment and better progress of all things else—never tracked with so much vigour, never laid bare with such terrible distinctness. Not to leave undone but to keep unknown, has been of burglars in past days, as of the Venetian ladies in Iago's time, the best virtue; but it is a virtue which cannot co-exist with true and honest Civilisation. Her office is the painful but essential one of compromising no unpleasant reality in favour of a less unpleasant seeming. It is the necessary purification of the Woolwich Academy, which makes its present shame be seen; as it is from the vigilant watchfulness of men no longer tolerant of the least abuse of authority, that the exceptional defects of our system of Police are no longer able to conceal themselves. And infinitely greater and more beneficent are the duties and labours of Civilisation which still wait to be discharged. She has to attend to the neglected and remember the forgotten. She has to direct misplaced sympathy into better channels. She has to connect the enjoyments of wealth and success with the higher sources of content and virtue. In one sense it may be no extravagant charge to attribute to the more rapid means of accumulating wealth increased temptations and facilities for crime. Upon intellectual cultivation depends the worth of material prosperity; and this before every other is the consideration which should occupy the thoughts of all men at present. Religion must be made a practical and intelligible truth; the poor must be taught as well as fed; and to a sound system of Universal Education we must look for our only effective antidote to crime and bigotry. We require no other weapon against the Pope and his Cardinal Archbishop, but most assuredly this weapon will be needed.

NARRATIVE OF POLITICS.

A DEPUTATION from the Ulster *Tenant Right Provincial Committee* waited on Lord Clarendon during his late visit to Belfast, for the purpose of presenting an address. His Lordship declined to receive the deputation, on the ground of his engagements, but a copy of the address was transmitted to him; and the following reply, dated the 18th of September, was sent by his private secretary: —"Gentlemen,—I am directed by the Lord-Lieutenant to thank you for your address, congratulating him upon his visit to the north, and expressing your dutiful attachment to Her Majesty. His Excellency observed with extreme satisfaction the agricultural and manufacturing prosperity that prevailed throughout the district to which you more particularly called his attention; but he forbears to enter into any analysis of the causes which have contributed to this happy state of things, respecting which a variety of opinions must necessarily exist. His Excelleney considers, also, that it would be improper, on his part, in replying to your address, to discuss the relations that should subsist between landord and tenant, as the question will be brought under the consideration of parliament next session; and you may rest assured that it is the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government to promote such an arrangement as may be satisfactory to all parties concerned. The Lord-Lieutenaut is much gratified at learning that you do not assume the attitude of complainants against any class of our fellow subjects, as he cannot doubt that temperate discussion and a careful abstinence on all sides from offence and irritation, will greatly facilitate the adjustment of this important question. The agricultural body you represent must be well aware that landlords and tenants are mutually dependent on each other; that their interests are identified, and can never be separated without reciprocal injury; but his Excellency is convinced that in Ireland, as elsewhere, respect for the rights of property will be found perfectly compatible with that security and confidence upon which the profitable investment of capital must depend."

Mr. Nicholas Maher, one of the members for Tipperary, and a large landed proprietor in that county, and the Hon. Cecil Lawless, member for Clonmel, and son of Lord Cloncurry, have given in their unconditional allegiance to the principles of the Tenant League.

The *Durham Agricultural Society* held its annual meeting on the 3rd inst. The most remarkable feature of the proceedings was the speech of the Duke of Cleveland, a conservative and protectionist, who, on this occasion, putting aside the usual views of his party, inculcated the necessity of every sort of exertion on the part of the farmers; telling them that, by discarding their antiquated modes of cultivation, they may make the land bear double the produce now generally raised from it.

At a meeting of the *Bury Agricultural Association* on the 4th, Lord Stanley, the chairman, made a speech which was remarkable as containing a retractation of the opinion he had expressed in the House of Peers, that the recent free trade legislation had altogether swamped the energies of the farmer, and brought both him and the landlord to ruin. He now congratulated his audience on the spirit of agricultural improvement and expenditure which he saw around him, and expressed his confident belief that that spirit, and that expenditure, would be equally beneficial to landlord and tenant. He entreated them not to relax in their efforts. "Let the zeal" he said, "which you have manifested in the first instance be continued, as I am sure it will. Let the landlord and the tenant, let the merchant and the agriculturist, pull together in a joint endeavour after our common prosperity; and believe me, that we shall insure, in spite of all discouragement and difficulty, great and gratifying success."

A great gathering of the *Essex Protectionists* took place on the 9th, the occasion being the annual dinner of the Saffron Walden Agricultural Association. The principal speakers were Major Beresford, one of the county members, and the Rev. Mordaunt Barnard, rector of Little Bardfield. The rev. gentleman, in acknowledging the "health of the bishop and clergy," said, that at a meeting which had been recently held in a neighbouring county, the clergy had been compared to rooks. The clergy were certainly birds which once or twice in the year eat some of the corn—he did not mean to say they eat one-tenth part—and he was quite sure the farmers did not grudge them their share. At all events, he trusted they would not attempt to cut down those tall and ancestral trees in which the clergy had built their nests. Both speakers ridiculed the idea of "high farming," and contended that no kind of high farming, at the present prices, could save farmers from ruinous loss, doctrines which seemed to receive the unanimous assent of the meeting.

The *Tenant League* held a monster meeting at Navan, the capital of Meath county, on the 10th. Some fifteen thousand are said to have been present, chiefly tenant-farmers. Mr. Columbus Drake, J. P., presided; Mr. Sharman Crawford, M. P., was the most notable speaker. Mr. Crawford claimed the League's principle of adjusting the relations of landlord and tenant by valuation, as his own; founding its justice on the fact that in Ireland the relation of landlord and tenant is such as to render necessary a protection against extortionable bargains about the land, which is not necessary in bargains about other matters. Contemning, at his time of life, the charge of popularity-hunting, he pledged himself to do everything he could, in Parliament or out of it, to obtain for the tenants their rights. A letter from Mr. Henry Grattan, M.P., refused a "pledge to any particular body of men, or any set of principles they may adopt;" and one from Mr. Corbally, M. P., expressed a belief that "the proceedings of the Tenant-Right Conference have materially injured a good and just cause."

The annual aggregate meeting of the *Parliamentary and Financial Reform Association* was held on the 14th in the London Tavern. The meeting was crowded. Sir Joshua Walmsley was in the chair, and the principal speakers (besides the chairman) were Mr. Searle, Mr. W. J. Fox, Mr. Hume, Colonel Thompson, and Mr. Feargus O'Connor. The leading resolution (which, with the others, was passed unanimously) was— "That, on a deliberate review of the proceedings of the last session of Parliament, this meeting feels called upon to express its strong dissatisfaction with many of the votes of public money—votes altogether unwarranted by the reasons assigned for them, or by the financial condition of the country; that, connecting these votes with the neglect of numbers of petitions from the people for Parliamentary and other reforms at home; the disregard of general and just complaints from our fellow-subjects in the colonies abroad; the continuance of heavy and oppressive taxation, and the maintenance of overgrown and unnecessary establishments; this meeting is deeply impressed with the necessity for a radical reform in the Commons' House of Parliament, for the purpose of giving to the people a constitutional control over the proceedings of that assembly, and, consequently, over the taxation and expenditure of the country."

At the Waltham Agricultural Society's Annual Meeting, on the 19th, there was an excellent *Show of Stock*, followed, as usual, by a dinner, at which the Marquis of Granby presided, supported by a number of the neighbouring landlords and clergy. Unlike the speakers at some of the previous meetings this season, the noble Marquis stoutly maintained the old protectionist doctrines, which, he affirmed, were still held to their full extent by Lord Stanley. Among the other topics of his speech, was the present cry for financial reform, which, he held, is a consequence of the distress caused by free trade. "What is the meaning (he said) of this crying out from one side of England to the other for diminishing the expenditure? What is it but that the people are now feeling the pressure of taxation much heavier than they have ever done before? Dickens, in a late work, said that in 1815 the taxes of the country were at the rate of *5l. 4s. 10d.* for each man, but that now it is *2l. 14s. 11d½.*, about one-half. If that be the case—if taxes are only one-half of what they were then, how is it that there is this outcry for a reduction of taxation? The system which is now being carried on is ruining the country and destroying her vitality together with her best interests." He concluded by advising the farmers to cultivate their land as well as possible, and by referring to the next general election as the period

when they might secure representatives of sound principles.

From the *Revenue Returns* to the 15th of October, it appears that the net produce of the revenue for the year preceding that date, was 48,743,043*l.*; and that for the year preceding 10th of October 1840, it was 48,272,335*l.*; the *increase* on the year being 470,708*l.* For the quarter ending 10th October 1850, the revenue was 13,192,458*l.*; for the corresponding quarter of 1849, 13,610,561*l.*; *decrease* 418,103*l.* This decrease is accounted for chiefly by the repeal of the duty on bricks, which, in the corresponding quarter of 1849, amounted to 240,000*l.*; and by the diminution of 179,719*l.* on the Stamp duties, owing to two causes. Last year the discount previously given on receipt and certain other stamps was reduced, the reduction taking place on October 10, 1849. This created a great demand immediately before that date. On the other hand, the new Stamps act, reducing the duties, has come into operation this month, and the public have very generally put off to the new quarter the purchase of stamps for legal documents.

A return to Parliament just issued contains a list of *Sinecure Benefices* in England and Wales, with the name of the patron and incumbent, and the annual value and population of each. It appears that there are fifty-seven sinecure benefices, of which eighteen are in the diocese of Norwich. The annual value of these benefices ranges from 10*l.* to 1125*l.* In some of the places there are no churches, and in others the churches are in a dilapidated state. The population in some of the sinecure benefices exceeds one thousand souls.

The *Sales of Encumbered Estates* were resumed at Dublin on the 22nd; on which day seven estates were sold, of the aggregate value of 50,000*l.*

The Committee of Prelates appointed by the Synod of Thurles to carry into execution the project of establishing a *Catholic University in Ireland*, on the model of the Catholic University at Louvain, have resolved that regular monthly collections, on the plan of that for the propagation of the faith, be made throughout the kingdom by local committees, of which the parochial clergy are to be ex-officio members. They have published a long address to the Catholics of Ireland, insisting on the grave evils to faith and morals of separating religion from secular education, and calling loudly for support to their projected establishment.

Mr. Herbert Watkin Williams Wynn has been elected member for Montgomeryshire, in the room of his uncle, the late Mr. Charles Watkin Williams Wynn.

On the 4th, Mr. Loftus Wigram was elected member for the University of Cambridge without opposition, Mr. Cowling having previously withdrawn from the contest.

Mr. Booker, a protectionist, has been elected member for the County of Hereford, in the room of the late Mr. Bailey.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

Mr. Cureton, of the British Museum, was *Robbed and nearly Murdered* in an extraordinary manner on the 20th ult. Mr. Cureton lodges on the second floor of a house in Aldersgate Street. In the afternoon three men, fashionably dressed, inquired for him in the lower part of the house, and were directed to go up-stairs; they did so, and in about a quarter of an hour descended, and left the place. A few minutes later, a Mrs. Wilson took some milk for Mr. Cureton's tea, and on entering his room she found him extended on the floor, insensible, his face quite black, and blood flowing from a wound in his forehead. Seven hours elapsed before Mr. Cureton was restored to consciousness. He then intimated that he had been robbed. It seems that the three men pretended that they wished to purchase a crown-piece of William and Mary. Mr. Cureton showed them one. While two of the gang were inspecting it, the third stood by the door—probably watching if any one ascended the stairs. Mr. Cureton turned to ask him to be seated; at that instant an instrument was pressed round his throat, depriving him of all power; and he was struck a violent blow over the right eye which made him fall senseless. Then, it appears, the villains ransacked the place; carrying off a watch, a diamond pin, a box of cigars, and old coins worth from 300*l.* to 400*l.* as antiques, but not so many shillings if melted down for silver. It is supposed that the vice in which Mr. Cureton's neck was grasped was formed of two "life-preservers" tied together at one end. Fortunately the villains missed the most valuable articles; having overlooked a number of gold coins while sweeping away the silver ones. Two rewards were offered for their conviction—50*l.* by Government and 50*l.* by Mr. Cureton.—On the 2nd instant the police produced Henry Denham, a rough-looking young man, at the Mansion House, and charged him with having been concerned in the robbery and outrage. It seems that this person is a thief, and has been convicted; and the police had received information that he was one of the robbers. Mrs. Wilson, who lives in the house where Mr. Cureton lodges, and who admitted the three men on the 20th of September, stated that she could not swear to the prisoner, but she believed that he was the last of the three who entered the house. The noise of the violence and robbery had attracted the attention of Mrs. Edwards, who lives in the first floor; and as Mr. Cureton was usually very quiet, she went to speak to Mrs. Wilson about the noise, but could not find her. Mrs. Edwards saw the three ruffians descend the stairs; but, unfortunately, did not particularly notice them. Denham protested his innocence, and said he was an out-patient at St. Thomas's Hospital at the time of the robbery. He was remanded and brought up for further examination on the 9th, when he was again remanded for the production of additional evidence; and the magistrate directed him to be placed in the infirmary as he complained of illness. While he was being removed, the magistrate was informed that a gentleman was in court who had recognised him as one of a gang who made an attack on him similar to that which had been made on Mr. Cureton. The prisoner was again placed at the bar, and a gentleman presented himself in a state of great agitation. He stated that his name was Thomas Miller, a colourman in Longacre; that about a month ago an attempt was made to rob him as he was returning home about midnight; he was seized by three or four men, who caught him round the throat with an instrument like a walking-stick, made of gut or some pliable substance; he felt suffocated, and was thrown with violence on the kerb-stone, one of his teeth being broken and his chin severely hurt. Alderman Gibbs: Look at the prisoner at the bar, and say whether you know anything about him? Witness. I have no hesitation in saying that the prisoner is one of those who attacked me. I have a recollection of his face from the strong reflection from the gas-lamp upon it. My recollection was so strong that the moment I looked at him at the bar I was almost ready to sink. The Prisoner. Oh, Lord! Oh, Lord! how wicked! Alderman Gibbs: Do you apprehend that he was the man who put the instrument round your neck? Witness. I do. Alderman Gibbs: Did you lose any property? Witness. No; my pockets were tightly buttoned up. I struggled, and struck one of my assailants, and I think I must have marked his face with my knuckles. Alderman Gibbs: How many were at you, to the best of your belief? Witness. I believe there were three at me, and that one was on the look out. When I was assaulted, it was a quarter past twelve o'clock to a moment. The Prisoner. Oh, it's a cruel thing—a most cruel thing. No sooner does one charge fail than another wicked charge is brought on. Oh, I was not out of my bed at the time he speaks of. I was seriously ill at the time, and I can prove it. Witness: I wish to see the prisoner with his hat on his head. The prisoner put on his hat. Witness (having looked steadfastly at the prisoner). I cannot alter my opinion as to his identity. The Prisoner: It was only a few moments ago I had my solicitor here. Why was not this charge brought forward in his presence? Oh, you may as well hang a dog as give him a bad name. I know nothing at all about these wicked charges. The prisoner was then removed from the bar. On the 16th Denham was re-examined, and committed on the charge of assailing Mr. Miller.

A coroner's inquest, held on the 24th of September on the body of a young man named Stendon, who was found dead on board the Lady Sale, a merchant brig, when

she arrived at the West India Docks, produced some striking disclosures as to the *Sanitary Condition of the Vessel.* It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was a butler, in the service of a gentleman at Gambia, and that in July last he engaged with the master of the Lady Sale, to allow him to work his passage to England. When the vessel left the River Gambia the crew consisted of eleven men, including the master and mate. The day after her departure it was found impossible to go below deck, in consequence of the steam and heat arising from ground cocoa-nuts, and the stench from undried mahogany. The crew were, therefore, obliged to remain on deck day and night, and get their berths where they could. The effect was, that the whole were more or less attacked with fever. Six of them, among whom was the deceased, were unable to work the ship. The corned beef was also so bad as to be unfit for human food. The crew remained thus exposed three parts of the passage. There was no surgeon on board, but every assistance was afforded by the mate and steward, who gave the invalids sago, arrowroot, gruel, and jalap. There were only twenty-four bottles of wine in the ship's stores, of which but ten were appropriated to the sick. One seaman died on the passage from exhaustion. When the vessel reached Cork, five sailors were put ashore, and placed in the hospital. In ten days they were thought to be sufficiently recovered to be able to continue the voyage. In two days after the ship left Cork they were again taken ill. The deceased soon became delirious, and frequently got on deck nearly naked. He was attacked with dysentery, and the forecastle, where his berth was, emitted such an effluvium, that no one would enter it. When the ship had gone into the West India Dock Basin, he was found dead in the forecastle. Had the ship been detained by contrary winds in the Channel, the mate stated that he had no doubt but that all the men who were in the hospital at Cork would have died. The verdict was—"That the deceased died of an attack of dysentery, and the jury regret that better accommodation and attention were not ordered for the deceased on board the ship."

An inquest was held on the 25th and 26th of September, on two of the persons who perished by *The Wreck of the Superb.* Joseph Johnson, the engineer, stated that that the vessel had never passed so near the rocks before; he did not know why they took that course on the present occasion. When the steamer struck, the cutter Jupiter was six or seven miles distant, and she bore down to the aid of the Superb. The passengers and their luggage were taken on board in a boat, a portion at a time; and at a later period the crew also quitted the wreck, after saving what they could. Thirty feet of the stern of the Superb went under water when she struck. Amy, a sailor, stated that Fleming, the mate, was at the wheel at the time of the disaster. He told Amy he was going to pass through the rocks, as he had done several times in the Camilla. Priaulx, the master, cried out twice, "Port!" but Fleming took no heed; Priaulx again shouted "Port!" Fleming then obeyed, but the vessel struck directly after. Mollet, a sailor, said he let down the small boat and jumped into it; numbers followed; the plugs were out and it filled. It was imprudent to attempt the passage through the rocks. "We were in the habit of taking three boats out with us, but we had then only two. Our long-boat was about nine or ten feet long, and would hold ten or twelve persons; the other, four or five." Gaudin, the second mate, stated that he was one of the persons who got into the other boat; that, too, had no plug, but Gaudin kept the water out with his foot. When there were fifteen or eighteen people in the boat, the master, Priaulx, leapt into it, and caused it to capsize; but for that, the mate thought all the people in the boat would have been saved. Thomas Hamon, a fisherman, detailed how he saved some persons who were struggling in the water. He has known the rocks for thirty years, and they are not the least practicable for a steamer. Priaulx told him he took that unusual course to show his passengers the wrecked Polka. Several passengers gave evidence, principally narrating their own adventures. The jury returned a verdict, ascribing the wreck to culpable imprudence on the part of Captain Priaulx, and also charging Fleming the mate with imprudence. In consequence of this verdict the master and mate were arrested, and found bail of 100*l.* each for their appearance when called on to answer the charges to be preferred against them in the royal court of Jersey.

A boy of about eleven years old, called Joseph Bean, was brought before the sitting magistrate at the Mansion House on the 27th of September, upon a charge of *Robbery.* The wretched child had been frequently committed to prison for theft, and been twice whipped by the direction of the magistrate, and the sentence had been regularly recorded. The case was the first heard in the court under the new Juvenile Prisoners Act. The magistrate said, it was his duty, under the new act, to ask the prisoner or the person who answered for him, whether it was wished that a summary sentence should be passed, or that the case should be sent for trial to the Central Criminal Court. The father of the boy said his child was, in his opinion, quite incorrigible, and it would, therefore, be advisable to send him to be disposed of at the Old Bailey. The magistrate regretted the obligation upon him to commit the boy for trial, as summary conviction presented in such a case much greater chances of reformation. The prisoner's father said he had been completely beggared by the boy, and persevered in his desire to see the case before a jury. The boy was accordingly committed for trial.

The Rev. Mr. Hollest, Perpetual Curate of Frimley Grove, was *Murdered* on the 27th of September, by robbers, who broke into his house in the dead of night. Frimley Grove is a small village, about a mile and a half from the Farnborough Station of the South-Western Railway. Mr Hollest was in his fifty-fourth year; he had held the curacy for seventeen years, and was universally respected. He lived in an old-fashioned brick-house standing in its own grounds, and distant about a hundred yards from any other house. On the night in question, there were in the house Mr. and Mrs. Hollest, their two sons, youths of fourteen and fifteen, who were at home from school, a man-servant and two maid-servants. Mr. and Mrs. Hollest slept on the first-floor. About three o'clock in the morning, they were awakened by a noise in the room; and saw two masked figures standing at the foot of the bed, with lights. Mr. Hollest thought it a trick of his sons, and good-naturedly chided them for the unseasonable hour they had chosen. Mrs. Hollest was not so deceived, and screamed in terror. The men instantly seized them both, and, with pistols pointed at their heads, declared that if they made the slightest noise they would blow their brains out. Mrs. Hollest struggled hard, and at length succeeded in slipping out of bed and seizing a bell-rope; upon which her assailant rushed round to the side of the bed, threw himself upon her with such force as to snap the bell-rope asunder, and continued to stand over her with his pistol pointed to her face. Mr. Hollest, who was a strong and active man, struggled with the villain who stood over him, and getting out of bed, was in the act of stooping down to reach the poker from the fireplace, when his assailant fired, and wounded him in the abdomen. Mr. Hollest was not aware at first that he had been struck, and continued to grapple with the robber, endeavouring to prevent his escape. The report of the pistol alarmed the miscreant who was standing over Mrs. Hollest, and he left her for a moment and joined his companion. Finding herself released, she rushed to the fireplace, and, seizing a large hand-bell, swung it to and fro several times. The villains almost immediately left the apartment; and, descending the staircase, hastened out of the house by the front-door. Mr. Hollest seized a loaded gun, ran down stairs, and fired at three men who were running across a lawn; but, it appears, without effect. On returning up-stairs, Mr. Hollest first discovered that he was wounded. He got into bed, and sent the man-servant for constables and a doctor. Examination of the premises showed that the robbers had entered by a scullery-window, and then forced an entrance into the kitchen. They had set all the doors open, and fastened them back, so that they might easily retreat. They carried off much plunder. When Mr. Davies, the family-surgeon, examined Mr. Hollest, he at once foresaw a fatal issue. The patient's sufferings were intense; and at noon on Sunday, the 29th, it was announced to him that death was approaching. He

received the intelligence with Christian resignation; took an affectionate leave of his family and servants; expressed a desire to partake of the sacrament, which was administered to him by a clerical friend and neighbour; and he expired, in a state of almost unconscious exhaustion, between eight and nine o'clock on Sunday evening. An officer of the Detective force was sent from London to aid the local police; and on Sunday evening three men, calling themselves Smith, Jones, and Harwood were apprehended at Guildford. They were known as daring thieves who had been several times in custody before. Government offered 100*l.*, and the family of Mr. Hollest 50*l.* for the conviction of the criminals. An inquest was begun on the 30th. The facts above stated were proved; and Mary Gouldstone, a servant of Mr. Mayberry, a surgeon at Frimley Grove, identified Smith and Jones as two of three men whom she saw talking on a grass-plat before her master's house at half-past twelve on Friday night. Smith and Jones denied this; saying they could bring witnesses to prove they were not at Frimley. The inquest was adjourned for a week.—Samuel Harwood, a brother of the man already in custody, was arrested subsequently. A keeper found in a plantation the masks worn by the men, made of green baize; and a piece of corresponding baize was found in Samuel Harwood's house. The inquest was resumed on the 8th, and again adjourned to the 22nd.—On the 12th the prisoners were examined before the magistrates of the county. The reporters for a number of newspapers attended, but were refused admission. The principal witness was Mrs. Hollest, who had been likewise examined before the inquest. Her deposition, it is stated, contained a remarkable fact relative to a copper token found in the pocket of one of the prisoners, which she positively identified as a coin that had been paid to her a few days previously to the murder, by a Miss Bulpin, the village school-mistress, and which was stolen, with other copper moneys, by the thieves. This token formed the weekly payment of one of the little school-girls to a provident fund for purchasing clothes, set on foot in Frimley by Mrs. Hollest. It was paid to Miss Bulpin, the schoolmistress, by the little girl, and handed over a few hours afterwards by her to Mrs. Hollest, with the remark that it was a very odd looking penny. Miss Bulpin added, that she did not think it would pass; but Mrs. Hollest expressing her belief that it would, showed it to Mr. Hollest, remarking to him, that "they had not paid much respect to poor King George's nose" (the nose on the profile of King George is much scratched and battered). Mrs. Hollest then put the token with other moneys into a bag, where she was in the habit of keeping the "clothes fund," and there it remained up to the night of the murder.

The investigation was resumed on the 18th. In the meantime Hiram Smith had volunteered a confession of his own guilt, involving also his associates; and his statement had been taken down by Mr. Keene, the governor of the gaol, and police-sergeant Hollington. The other prisoners were kept in total ignorance of this circumstance. When brought for further examination, the four prisoners were placed in a semicircle before the magistrates, separated from each other by turnkeys, that all possibility of their communicating with each other might be cut off. The magistrates went through all the steps of the evidence against the prisoners, independently of the confession, as if that had not been made; and Hiram Smith put questions to the witnesses as if he had made no confession. The evidence concerning the confession began with the statement of Sergeant Hollington, that "on Monday last the 14th inst," in consequence of what had passed on the previous day between Smith and the governor, Mr. Keene, "Smith was brought into the room where they were then assembled." Levi Harwood here glanced rapidly and suspiciously at Smith, whose eyes were fixed on the ground. Jones looked doggedly forward, turning his eyes neither to the right nor to the left; while Samuel Harwood, whose face became suddenly pale with apprehension, gazed with an alarmed expression at the chairman. The chairman—"What passed?" The witness—"Mr. Keene said to the prisoner, 'Here is Mr. Hollington.' Smith then wanted to see one of the handbills, but Mr. Keene had no copy, and he therefore produced the *Hue and Cry*. I afterwards sent for a bill, which the prisoner read himself. He then wanted to know the meaning of the word 'accomplice;' and we told him that he must use his own judgment. He also wished to know whether the promise of pardon in the bill would be acted up to if he were to 'peach.' We told him that he had the bill before him, and must use his own judgment. Neither of us held out any hope to him founded thereon; but he said that he saw it was plain, and he would therefore make a statment." [Levi Harwood again directed a rapid but furious look at the prisoner Smith.] He had been cautioned several times, and told that his words would be taken down and used against him; but he answered, "Every man is bound to take care of himself;" and made the statement which Sergeant Hollington took down, and which was now read to the court. It was to the effect that the robbery was planned by Smith himself and the three other prisoners, and gave a minute detail of the outrage, corresponding to the circumstances which had already transpired. It declared that Levi Harwood was the person who fired the fatal shot at Mr. Hollest. It added, that, after the robbery and murder, they went to Kingston, and that Levi Harwood then went to London to dispose of the booty. While this document was read by the clerk to the magistrates, Smith remained with his eyes fixed on the ground. Levi Harwood swung himself to and fro occasionally, and shot looks full of the most savage anger at his approver-accomplice; his hands all the time being deeply buried in his breeches-pockets, as if to restrain himself from some act of violence. Jones scowled fiercely forward; and Samuel Harwood looked more and more alarmed. When the reading of the confession had terminated, Levi Harwood exclaimed, though in a subdued tone of voice—"It is all false what he says, gentlemen, all of it." The chairman observed, that the confession was important evidence against Smith himself: whether it affected any one else would be matter for future consideration. Smith—"It 's all true, every word of it." Mr. Keene's written account of the confession was then handed in and read: it agreed exactly with that of Sergeant Hollington. Smith repeated—"It 's the truth, and ne'er a one of them can deny it." Levi Harwood—"I can deny it, for I don't know anything about it." Smith, with an air of astonishment on seeing the preparations making for the removal of himself as well as his associates, here asked the chairman whether he was to be locked up as he used to be? The chairman—"Certainly. What you have said is strong evidence against yourself." Jones then, for the first time since the announcement of the confession, turned towards Smith, and in a voice rendered hoarse by the vehemence of his passions, said, "I hope you will get shot yourself some day for what you have said." The prisoners were remanded, and removed; Levi Harwood vehemently protesting that Smith was a liar. The adjourned coroner's inquest was resumed on the 22nd. Among the other evidence brought forward was the confession of Hiram Smith. The inquiry was again adjourned to the 29th.

In July last a daring *Robbery* was committed in Northgate, one of the principal streets of Halifax, by a party of very expert thieves, who entered the premises of Mr. Lewis Balerna, watchmaker and jeweller, during the night, and cleared the premises of upwards of 50 silver watches, 11 gold watches, 320 fancy gold rings, 30 diamond rings and a great quantity of articles of jewellery. A reward of 50*l.* was at the time offered for the conviction of any of the thieves, but no trace of them, or of the property stolen, was gained until Sunday the 29th of September. On that day Mr. Beswick, the chief superintendent of the Manchester detective force, received some information which led him to visit a house in Ashley Lane, Manchester, where he found a large box, which had been left there by a woman who called herself Ellen Moult, and which contained forty-four gold and silver watches, a large number of gold pins, and other articles, many of which he recognised as the produce of the Halifax robbery. Next day he went to Liverpool, and discovered that Ellen Moult had been living there as the wife of a man named Hawkins. She had been arrested on suspicion of felony by the Liver-

pool police, but no charge being made out against her she was set at liberty. He at once recognised her as one of the most notorious thieves in the district, whose real name was Amelia Wade, but who had found it convenient on many occasions to adopt an *alias*. She was of course taken into custody, and it is believed that three men, in custody on another charge at Liverpool, were concerned in the robbery.

At the Mansion House on the 30th of September, William Lefevre, a child of ten years old, was charged with having attempted *to pick Pockets*. His impudence was remarkable; he had been observed by a labouring man together with two other boys, endeavouring to pick pockets, and he appeared to be the most active of the little gang. The witness followed them for some time, and at last saw the prisoner dexterously slip his hand into a woman's pocket, but as he pulled it out empty, the man merely gave him a slap on the side of the head, and told him to be off. "Off!" said the boy, squaring up to him, "do you cut away with you, or I'll knock in the whole front of your head; blest if I don't." The witness was not much astonished at the language, for he had seen the prisoner and his companions before, but having thought proper to pursue them further, and prevent them from going into a halfpenny steamer, the young fellow said, "Well, I see there's no use in talking, and I certainly will pitch into your breadbasket, old fellow." And he threw himself into position, and said he was all right in pluck. Alderman Gibbs: What have you to say, prisoner? The prisoner: I was only playing about with other boys, when this man, who isn't a policeman, came up and threatened us. I told him I was able to fight him, and he wouldn't have me; that's all. He was remanded.

Alexander Minginoria, a Pole in the uniform of a French soldier, was charged at Marlborough Street on the 30th September, with *Begging in Shops*. He gave an account of himself, from which it appeared that he had fought against Russia in 1834, and for this he had been exiled. He went to France, entered their service, and was sent to Algeria. In that colony he had spent the best years of his life; and when he returned to France the revolution had occurred and a republic had been established. The French government had come to the resolution to expel foreigners from that country. Accordingly he was peremptorily required to quit the country of his adoption, and for which he had fought for so many years. A free pass and a free passage were provided for him, and he was landed on the shores of England without a sixpence. The secretary of the Polish Society, who was in attendance, said he could corroborate one portion of the defendant's story, as far as the extradition of Poles from France was concerned. Within a very few months he could prove that 200 destitute Poles had been driven from France by the French Republic, and had been landed penniless on the shores of England. It was monstrous such a system should be permitted. He believed the fact had been communicated to Lord Palmerston, but he was not aware whether any steps had been taken to check the evil. The magistrate concurred in condemning a proceeding that had the effect of driving these poor foreigners from a country on which they had some claim, to a country on which they had no claim whatever. The secretary said, the public grant for the relief of the distressed Poles had ceased, the English nation having naturally become tired of giving alms to the refugees. There was, however, 1200*l.* subscribed privately for the relief of the Poles, and out of this fund a passage to America would be furnished to the defendant. The magistrate gave the poor man 5*s.* for temporary relief.

At Bow Street on the 1st of October, Theodore Staines, who was described as editor of a weekly paper, and said he was a novel-writer for certain periodicals, was charged with two *Savage Assaults* in Long Acre, while in a state of intoxication. He had been walking in Long Acre after midnight with a gigantic walking-stick, which he flourished indiscriminately over the heads of unoffending by-passers. A carpenter named George received a smart blow on the head, and the constable who apprehended him was kicked, struck, and bitten by him on the way to the station. He expressed his regret at what had happened. He had now no recollection of it. Owing to a long absence on the continent, he was unused to English liquors, and a very little had effect. The stick produced was a curiosity, which he had brought from abroad. He hoped his "brethren of the press," as he called the reporters, would not expose him. The magistrate advised him to keep his "curiosity" at home for the future, and fined him 30*s.*, or a fortnight's imprisonment, for the assault on George. For the assault on the constable he was sentenced to eight days' imprisonment without the option of paying a fine.

A *Lunacy Case*, curious for the technical objection which was the subject of preliminary discussion, was decided at Dumfries on the 3rd. The subject of investigation was the state of mind of Mr. Pulteney William Mein, eldest son of Pulteney Mein, Esq., of Canobie. The pleadings, or "*brieves*," as they are termed, described the party as *maximus filius*. This description was objected to on the part of the defendant, as being misdescriptive. It was contended that *maximus filius* would have been a good description of the *largest* son, but, to describe the eldest, the words should have been *maximus natu*. The objection was overruled, and the case proceeded on the merits, when, after an inquiry of three days, the jury found a verdict *cognoscing* Mr. Mein, in other words finding him insane.

On the 3rd, an inquest was held at Milntown, in the county of Clare, on the body of Dennis Kearin, a pauper boy of eleven years old, who had *Died on the Road* between the Milntown auxiliary workhouse and the Ennistymon workhouse. The board of guardians had ordered the paupers in the auxiliary workhouse to be inspected. At six o'clock in the morning, on a very bad day, 85 boys, 14 men, and 3 women, set out and walked to Ennistymon, a distance of fourteen Irish miles; were inspected, and set out again on their return, without having tasted food since their departure in the morning. They were exhausted with cold and hunger, and the boy Kearin fell down and expired on the spot. One of the witnesses, a resident in Milntown, who met the party of paupers as they were straggling along in the evening, gave the following description of their condition: I was on my way home to Milntown, from Ennistymon Fair. I observed a man up against the wall on the side of the road; I asked him what he wanted there, and he told me he was weak and not able to walk. I came on then, and met another man on the road, who walked a few steps with me and said his sight was darkening, he was so weak from hunger. I met a number of the boys further on; I asked them were they able to walk home; some were, and some were weak. I met another boy further on, and he having a sheaf of beans under his arm, he and I came to the road as far as Mr. Kearin's bridge. We met with more of the boys, and he stopped along with them. I came on, when I met three other boys; and one of them was trying to bring another boy who was not able to walk; it was then dark, I took the little boy that was weak by the arm, and led him along with the other boy. I did not go far when the other boy told me he was falling dead with weakness. I took him in like manner by the hand, and had both the boys then by the arms. I led them both on until we came to Clonbonny Bridge. I took off their hands there, and had to turn aside from them, when I heard a cry, and I took the chaps by the hands and went on. I saw a little boy staggering before I could come up to him. He was dashed against the wall. I asked one of the little boys that was with me to take up the boy that fell. He said he could not—that he was dead. I came on, and did not look after the boy that fell. I heard the sound of his skull against the wall. I saw no person with him. The boys I had, told me several times they were hungry. All the boys I spoke to were pauper boys. They were sent from Milntown Auxiliary Workhouse to Ennistymon Workhouse. I asked them, did they get anything to eat at Ennistymon house? They said, No. They told me they ate a few spoons of stirabout that morning for breakfast at six o'clock. The jury returned the following verdict:—We find that Dennis Kearin, aged eleven years, came by his death on Monday night, September 30th, on his way from the Ennistymon Workhouse to the Auxiliary House at Milntown from exhaustion, for want of food, and exposure to cold, and from the neglect of the officers

connected with the parent house and auxiliary house at Milntown, together with the neglect of the Ballyvoughan guardians. The Government have ordered a magisterial investigation into this affair, the result of which is not yet known.

A thrice adjourned *Inquest* on the body of James Geary, a young Irish labourer, was terminated on the 4th. It appeared from the evidence that Geary had died on the previous Sunday. About one o'clock on Sunday morning, the 19th of August, he was attacked by the police near the court where he lived, adjoining Burial-ground Lane. The police beat him about the head and shoulders with their staves, and as he lay on the pathway with his head hanging over the kerb-stone, one policeman held him by the collar and another knelt on his chest; after which they pulled him up and dashed him against the railing, when Sergeant Bushell struck him across the arms and legs with his staff, and while they dragged him to the station-house, Sergeant Bushell again struck him with his staff. The people cried out "Don't kill the man." Geary, who was perfectly sober and orderly, was charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct; but the magistrate dismissed the charge. The day after he got the beating he took to his bed, declaring he would never recover it, and gradually sunk until he died. One of the witnesses swore to Sergeant Bushell being the man who struck Geary with the truncheon, but could not swear to the identity of the other policeman. The jury returned a verdict of "Manslaughter against Sergeant Bushell," who was committed to Newgate. He has been since tried at the Central Criminal Court and acquitted.

Mr. Thomas Charles Sirrell, gold and silver refiner of the Barbican, a tradesman doing a large and profitable business of an apparently respectable character, was, on the 4th, arrested by the police on a charge of *Receiving a Quantity of Stolen Plate*, with a guilty knowledge of the mode in which it was obtained. A large quantity of plate was stolen from the residence of the Rev. Mr. Fisher, a Catholic clergyman, near Liverpool. The officers visited Mr. Sirrell's, and seized the goods. They telegraphed the seizure to Liverpool, and received instructions to arrest Mr. Sirrell; this was also done, and he was conveyed to Liverpool, and brought before the magistrates, by whom he was remanded. Two persons, named M'Aulay and M'Guire, were apprehended at Liverpool, charged with stealing the goods received by Sirrell. On the 8th the prisoners were again examined and remanded. When the police arrested Sirrell, they examined his general stock, and saw enough to induce them to seize the whole, on suspicion that it was the produce of robberies. It was removed to the Scotland Yard station, and part of it was recognised; Mr. Argent, of the Rainbow Tavern, Fleet Street, identified some plate which he had lost, though his marks had been nearly obliterated; and Mr. Lovegrove, of the London Coffeehouse, claimed a number of spoons and forks. It was ascertained that a pair of salt-cellars, part of the packets sent from Liverpool, were stolen from the house of Mrs. Tinley, a lady living in that town. On the 18th, Sirrell and M'Aulay were committed for trial; but M'Guire was discharged. Mr. Sirrell has since been liberated on bail.

An inquest was held on the 5th on the body of Ann Francis, a young girl, servant in a family in Newman Street, who had committed *Suicide*. She had formed an affection for a young man named Kelly, whose master resided in the same house, where she had been a servant five years. She received a letter from Kelly, in which he said that he intended sailing for New York, in consequence of her having said that she was pregnant by him. Next morning she was found by a fellow-servant in the kitchen, hanging by a rope from a clothes peg, and dead. The following letter, addressed to her mother, was found close to where she was hanging:—"Dear mother, Kelly has ruined me, and says that I am the cause of his going away. It 's more than I am able to bear. Good-bye, dear parents. Ann Francis."—A verdict of insanity was given.

John Lambourn, a labourer, residing at Watlington, in Oxfordshire, has been apprehended on the charge of having *Murdered his Wife*. They had long lived unhappily, and violent altercations were often heard between them. The wife was seen in good health on the 5th, and at eleven o'clock that night she was found dead in the garden, near her cottage door. She was then quite cold, her bonnet and cap were saturated with blood, and a quantity of congealed blood was beneath her head. The coroner's jury found a verdict against the husband, who was committed for trial.

John Kelly, a boy of twelve years old, was charged at the Mansion House on the 7th with *Stealing* in the clothes market in Cutler Street. He had been seen walking along with two "blinds," a black-and-white dog and a girl, both of which he was in the habit of using in his trade of theft, in which although so young he had been very expert and successful. He carried a whistle, which he blew upon the approach of danger, and the call was immediately answered by a rush from a crowd of Petticoat Lane thieves, and generally a rescue. The girl had been the immediate recipient of the "swag," and the dog was stated to be the bitter enemy of the police and others who are interested in the preservation of peace and the diminution of robbery. Upon the present occasion the prisoner was disappointed, and his whistle having been secured, he was unable to summon his friends to the rescue. Alderman Gibbs: Let him be taken down stairs and soundly flogged, so that he may remember the day. The prisoner. Oh dear, don't whop me, and I 'll promise to cut away from you altogether. Alderman Gibbs: No; you must go away taking with you a wholesome whipping.

A *Daring Robbery* was attempted in the house of Mr. Marston, a gold and silver beater in Birmingham, on the 7th. About four o'clock in the morning he was roused from sleep by a noise in the house, and on getting out of bed he found that his room door, which he left ajar on retiring to rest, had been in the meantime closed. He went down stairs, and glanced into the sitting-room, saw three men emptying his sideboard of the plate which it contained, and a large heap of the spoil was lying on the floor. He attempted to run back to his bed-room, with the intention of getting his firearms, but the robbers attacked him with their bludgeons. He turned upon them and tore a wooden rail out of the bannister, maintaining his position on the stairs for several minutes. At length, one of the villains brought a poker from the sitting-room, and with this he struck Mr. Marston numerous blows across the head and legs. Unable to hold out any longer he dropped at their feet, but even then they kicked and struck him, so as to prevent the possibility of his pursuing them, and as at this moment a fainting fit deprived him of his senses, they no doubt thought they had killed him. They then quitted the house, making their exit from the premises by the same way as they had entered, namely, through the ceiling of Mr. Marston's warehouse, from which a door communicated with the house. During this struggle, which lasted a quarter of an hour, and while Mr. Marston's daughter and servant were at a window crying loudly for help, two or three policemen were standing inactive before the door; and they afterwards alleged that the noise was caused by a man chastising his wife (or son, as one of them said) as if such a thing was likely to happen in a highly respectable house, and at such an hour in the morning. At last the door was opened from the inside, and Mr. Marston was found covered with blood, and insensible. No property was carried off. Five young fellows belonging to a London gang of thieves have been arrested. The policemen were brought before the watch committee, when Miss Marston attended and stated the facts; but the men were simply reprimanded by the Mayor. Five men were apprehended on suspicion, but, in consequence of the precarious state of Mr. Marston, they were not brought up for examination till the 23rd. Against two of them, Elijah Wareham and John Smith, no evidence was adduced; the others, Christopher Healy, Joseph Marshall, and William Wallace, after a long examination were remanded.

Cornelius Bowan, a respectable looking man of middle age, was charged on the 7th, at the Southwark police-court, with *Assaulting* police constable Gingle while in execution of his duty. The policeman said that the defendant with several women were standing by a coffee stall at one o'clock in the morning, talking and making a noise; that he desired the defendant to move on,

which he refused, and seizing the policeman by the collar, tore his coat, but was at length taken to the station-house. The defendant brought two respectable witnesses to disprove the complainant's statement. The defendant was taking a cup of coffee at the stall and making no noise or disturbance, when he was attacked and violently struck by the policeman. The magistrate said that it was necessary that policemen should be protected in the execution of their duty. In this particular case, however, it appeared that there were no just grounds for the policeman's interference with the defendant while drinking his coffee, and that instead of the latter committing the first assault, it was proved by two competent witnesses, the policeman was the agressor; that the public must also be protected from such conduct as that described, and, therefore, he should discharge the defendant.

A number of *Incendiary Fires* have taken place in different parts of the country.—On the evening of Sunday the 6th, about nine o'clock, a large stack of barley adjoining the homestead of Mr. Boldero of Rattlesden in Suffolk, was discovered to be on fire. A gentleman and lady passing in a gig saw two men running away from the stacks, and immediately afterwards the flames burst out. The fire extended to a neighbouring wheat-stack, and both were consumed; but the arrival of fire-engines prevented further damage. The two men were apprehended next day in a beer-house in the vicinity.—On the 7th, about two in the morning, the stack-yard of Mr. Meredith, a farmer at Frodesly in Shropshire, was discovered to be on fire. Engines were brought from Shrewsbury, eight miles off, but notwithstanding the exertions of the firemen, zealously aided by the villagers, the whole stack-yard and farm buildings (except the dwelling-house) were destroyed.—On the morning of the 8th, a fire broke out on a farm belonging to the Duke of Wellington near Strathfieldsaye, occupied by Mr. Luke Goddard. The whole of the farm produce, consisting of several new ricks and other corn in store, homestead, buildings, and implements of husbandry, were consumed. A carter and a boy about to leave the farm, have been arrested on suspicion.—At Rainham in Kent, on the night of the 9th, two stacks of wheat were fired simultaneously after dark, and entirely destroyed.—On the following morning, a large wheat-stack, the property of the Earl of Guildford, was discovered to be in flames. Fire-engines were useless, as no water could be obtained. A labourer suspected of causing these fires was taken into custody.

At the Southwark Police Court on the 8th, Thomas Claggett, a grocer in Bermondsey Street, was summoned at the instance of the parochial authorities of St. George's, for refusing to contribute to the *Maintenance of one of his Parents*. The relieving officer said, that the defendant's mother, an aged widow, had applied and obtained relief of the parish, and that her son had refused to contribute to her support, although a brother of his, who was only a shopman, and at very low wages, allowed her a trifle a week out of them, but not sufficient to defray her expenses. The defendant, a well-dressed man, when asked why he refused to maintain his mother, said, It is not in my power. Appearances are deceitful; my expenses are considerable, and the profits on my business are very small; there is so much competition in the grocery line especially, that the people in that trade, vulgarly speaking, are "eating each other's heads off." The Magistrate: What rent do you pay? Defendant: I pay 45*l.* and taxes, and that is as much as I can do. Mother knows it's not in my power to give her anything. The poor mother, who was present, held her head down and said nothing. The magistrate told the defendant that by law as well as by nature he was bound to contribute to his mother's support, and that he rendered himself liable to pay 1*l.* a month for every month he neglected it. The magistrate then directed that the summons should stand over for a fortnight, in order to give the defendant an opportunity of coming to some arrangement with the parochial authorities.

On the 9th a *Commission of Lunacy* was held at Uxbridge to inquire into the state of mind of Mr. Arthur Hugh Manners Tollemache, son of the late Hon. Charles Tollemache, nephew of the Earl of Dysart, and, on the maternal side, of the Marquis of Tweeddale. The commission had issued at the instance of Mr. Wilbraham Francis Tollemache, a brother of the unfortunate gentleman. It was shown by the testimony of several witnesses that Mr. Tollemache, who was fifty-one years of age, had been of weak intellect from his infancy; that he never made any progress at school, not having learned even writing; and that he had been under the care of Mr. Norton, of Rose Cottage, for the last ten years. The commission had been issued in consequence of his father's death (which occurred three months ago), upon which event he became entitled to a considerable fortune —about 45,000*l.* The jury returned an unanimous verdict, th t Mr. Tollemache had been of unsound mind since the 1st of March, 1836.

Grace Gardiner, a gaudily-dressed girl, was charged at the Southwark police-court on the 10th with *Stealing a quantity of Silk* and other articles from Mr. Belcher, a hatter in Great Suffolk-street. She had been only three days in his house as a servant when she disappeared after ransacking the drawers in Mrs. Belcher's bedroom, and she had been taken into custody the preceding night on Blackfriars Bridge. The girl's father, a respectable-looking man, stepped forward, and, with tears in his eyes, said that when he was informed of the circumstances he immediately came up from the country to seek for his daughter; that she had been reared with tenderness by her parents, and was always a good and virtuous girl until she had recently, without their knowledge, formed an acquaintance with some persons of bad character in London. The moment he was apprised of the robbery he lost no time in endeavouring to trace where she had taken up her abode, and by accident met her on Blackfriars Bridge the preceding night, and dressed out in the gaudy manner she now presented. When she caught sight of him she attempted to make her escape, but he prevented it by calling a policeman and giving her into custody. When he effected her capture he immediately communicated the fact to her late master, as, although she was his daughter, he would not screen her from the consequences of her conduct; and he added with emphasis, that he should prefer witnessing the transportation of his child, rather than she should lead the life of an abandoned woman, as he feared would be the case if she were not stopped in her reckless career. Mr. Belcher confirmed the father's statement, and on his account, expressed a wish not to prosecute; but the magistrate said he felt it his duty to commit the prisoner for trial. In the course of the examination it was stated that since she absconded, she had been living in a house of ill-fame in White Horse-street, and that she was proceeding thence to a theatre when she was met by her father.

Rosina Herbert, a young woman with a delicate infant in her arms, was charged on the 11th, at the Thames Police Court, with *Pawning Eight Shirts*, which she had received to make up for a woman named Elizabeth Miller. The magistrate asked the prosecutrix what she got per dozen for making the shirts, to which she replied 2*s.* 6*d.*, and she gave them out at 2*s.*, having but a halfpenny profit on each. The prisoner, who wept very bitterly, said she got but seven farthings for each, and she had to work early and late to make three in a day. The magistrate said that it was a distressing case, and he was embarrassed to know how he should act. Understanding that the woman's husband was in attendance, he ordered him to be called in, and at the same time asked the prosecutrix within what period the shirts ought to have been returned? She replied that they ought to have been sent home that morning. The husband was asked if he could pay for the redemption of the shirts, and he said that he could not, indeed. He was unable to save his poor wife from disgrace and a prison. The magistrate said the prisoner had no right to pawn the shirts; her distress was no justification for making away with other people's property. He was unwilling to send the woman to prison if the husband could pay the money lent upon the shirts. The husband: It's a large sum for a poor man. I'll endeavour to make it up in a week. The magistrate said he would adjourn the case for a week, and held the prisoner to bail in her own recognisance to appear on Friday next. As for the pawnbrokers, there was no pity at all for them. They had no right to take in such things, which

they must know did not belong to the party who raised money upon them, and if the husband could not raise the money, they would have to restore the shirts to the woman Miller without payment. The statement of this woman's case in the newspapers, induced several benevolent persons to contribute to her relief. On the 15th, the magistrate at the Thames office, on the occasion of one of these contributions, observed that more than 20*l.* had been already forwarded for the relief of Rosina Herbert and her children, and that there was really no occasion for any more contributions, while so much distress existed among persons who had withstood temptation and committed no crime. On the 18th, the woman was again brought before the magistrate, when it was proved that the prisoner had last year been convicted of pawning articles the property of her employers. The magistrate said that this previous conviction had much altered his view of her case, and sentenced her to pay 8*s.* 6*d.*, the value of the goods pawned, together with a fine of 10*s.* He also declared that, in future, no money transmitted for specific purposes should ever be so applied; that if money was sent to be used at discretion, it would be received, but not otherwise. Some person subsequently sent the woman herself money to pay the fine, and she was discharged.

A *Young Woman was Murdered* on Saturday, the 12th, near the village of Doddinghurst in Essex, under circumstances of peculiar atrocity. At this village, a farm is occupied by Mr. Thomas Drory, a highly respectable yeoman living at Great Burstead. The farm was managed by Mr. Drory's son, a quiet, well-looking young man of three and twenty. Under young Drory was placed as a farm-bailiff, Thomas Last, a labourer; whose family consisted of his wife, and her daughter by a former marriage, Jael Denny, a young woman of twenty, of commanding stature, handsome figure and face, and agreeable manners—the acknowledged beauty of the village. Young Drory and the Lasts, with their daughter, lived in the same house till a recent period. Drory used his position to establish a close intimacy with the daughter; and it was the discovery of this relation, by Mr. Drory, senior, that had lately caused the removal of the Lasts from his farm, and their retirement into a cottage at some little distance from the farm-house. The young farmer, however, persisted in his intimacy; and at length Jael found herself pregnant by him. At the inquest, after the girl's murder, her mother stated that she had not long since taken poison, which she said young Drory had given her to kill her infant; and that the effect of the poison was plain in her swelled lips and flesh: Jael herself had said she did not take all the poison, or it would have killed her. Drory lately paid his addresses to a young lady, and it appears that he had given instructions to have the bans published for his marriage. One day when Mrs. Last returned home, she noticed that her daughter was taken by surprise, and looked painfully agitated: going up stairs she found young Drory under her bed; and on her discovery of him, he tried to get her to sign a paper to which he had already got the daughter's signature, exculpating him from any connexion with her cause of trouble. Mrs. Last refused to sign this paper. On the evening of the murder, the girl had been walking with Drory, and returned home in better spirits than usual. She told her mother that Drory had put her in good spirits, and that she was going to meet him again at half-past six. She then put on her bonnet and cloak, went out, and did not return. Her stepfather, anxious on account of her absence all night, went out early on Sunday morning in search of her. About eight o'clock he found her lying dead a short way from the stile where she had said she was going to meet Drory. He ran back to his house, and Mr. Hammond, the landlord, returned with him to the place where the body lay. She was lying on her face, and a fur tippet lay about three yards off. A cord was round the neck; it was twisted round three times, and one end was in her hand. The face was swollen and black; there was a stream of blood on the ground, and blood was oozing from the mouth, nose, and ears. There was an injury on the chest, as if some one had knelt upon it; and there were marks of teeth, and scratches on the hands and arms. She was in the ninth month of pregnancy. Suspicion fell on young Drory, who was immediately arrested by the Superintendant of the Essex Police. This gentleman, at the inquest, gave the following account of the arrest:—"I asked Drory when he saw the deceased last. He said, 'At half-past five o'clock last (Saturday) evening, and that he had not heard of her this morning.' I took him to the spot, and saw the deceased lying on her face. The left side of her nose where she lay was flattened. I removed the cord from her neck. It was almost imbedded in it. The noose of the cord had cut the skin of the neck. It was turned thrice round the neck very tight—so much so that the neck was swollen above it. I then took the prisoner into custody. He did not speak. I took him to the deceased's house, and searched him. He said he had a letter in his box which would prove the child was not his. We then went to the house where the prisoner lived, and on searching his box, found the letter which has been produced, as well as two pieces of cord. One end of one piece had been recently cut. The prisoner said that the deceased and he had been acquainted, but that he had broken it off more than nine months." A labourer named Harris, resident in the neighbourhood, said that he saw the deceased and Drory together about half past five on Saturday, going across the meadow from Mr. Drory's farm; they were together about twenty minutes, when they parted and went severally homewards. This witness added that, two or three months before, he had heard Drory say that "he should like to shove her off, as he was carrying things on too far and was apprehensive of getting into trouble." A labourer named Hubbard, employed on Drory's farm, said that his master went out at half past six or seven on Saturday night, when he said he was going to Brentwood with some eggs; and two inhabitants of Brentwood saw Drory there about eight or a little later. Professor Taylor, of Guy's Hospital, gave evidence respecting marks of blood found on the trousers worn by Drory on the night of the murder. The coroner, in charging the jury, remarked that Drory's having been at Brentwood at eight o'clock was not inconsistent with his having committed the murder at half-past six. The result of the investigation was a verdict of Wilful Murder against Thomas Drory, and he was committed for trial at the Assizes.

A *Desperate attempt at Robbery* was made during the night of Sunday the 13th, in the house of Mr. Holford, in the Regent's Park. Several men broke into the house; the servants were alarmed, rose, armed themselves and attacked the robbers, one of whom they wounded and captured. On the following day the prisoner was brought before the Marylebone Police Court, and a number of witnesses were examined. The prisoner called himself William Dyson. Mr. Holford, it appears, is in America. James Paul, the butler, had secured the house on the night in question. About two o'clock in the morning he heard a noise; he got up, and saw the shadow of a man on the lawn; Paul dressed and armed himself, roused the groom and footman and armed them, and then awoke two coachmen in the stables, giving one a loaded gun and the other a pitchfork. These forces were stationed about the house. Three men were seen to leave the banquetting-room, and one of these was Dyson; he was knocked down by a coachman with a pitchfork, and two men grappled him till the police came. Another of the robbers was seen running away; the butler snapped one lock of a double-barrelled pistol, but it missed fire, and as the robber ran behind a bush, Paul fired the other barrel. The under-coachman had fired his gun as soon as he saw the three men descend from a window; one exclaimed, "O God!" as if he had been struck. Dyson only was caught, the others having disappeared for a time. When search was made, blood was found near the bush at which the butler had fired; and there were traces of blood over some fences, for a considerable distance. Nothing of note was found on Dyson. But at the house the officers picked up some pieces of candle, a crowbar, part of an ormolu ornament broken from a figure in the banquetting-room, a sling formed of a large stone tied in a handkerchief, and a hat; there were shot-holes in the hat, and marks of blood on the inside. The robbers had entered by a window, which they had forced open with a crowbar. The prisoner was remanded.

On the evening of the 14th a *Robbery* was committed at Mallow Cottage, near Abbotskerswell, in Devonshire. The proprietor was absent, and had left the care of the house to his three daughters; who had just retired to bed when they heard a noise below, as of some persons breaking into the house. The eldest of them, about fourteen years of age, jumped out of bed, struck a light, which she gave to her sisters, and, arming herself with two pistols, walked down over the stairs, followed by her sisters. On entering the parlour, they found everything in confusion, papers lying about, and the desk rifled. The burglars fled on the entrance of the girl; and the young lady with the pistols jumped from the parlour-window on to the lawn, and fired both after them. The thieves had stolen some money, papers, and plate; but being eager to get off, they dropped some plate on the lawn, which was recovered in the morning.

Numerous *Burglaries* have been committed this month in various parts of the country. They are all very similar in their circumstances. The thieves generally effected an entrance through a window insufficiently secured. On one occasion a house-dog, which had been relied on, entirely failed to do his duty. In most cases the criminals were detected, and a number of them have been committed for trial at different assizes.

Mr. and Mrs. Coplestone, the landlord and landlady of the Queen Square Tavern, at Bath, were *Assaulted and dreadfully wounded with a Razor*, on the 17th, by a person named Ogle Wallis, who lodged in their house. He was leaving the house, with his portmanteau, when, his rent being in arrear, the landlord insisted that he should pay it before carrying off his goods. Wallis flew on the landlord, and attacked him with a razor; and Mrs. Coplestone, coming to his assistance, was attacked in the same manner. Both were cut in the hands and face, and the husband so much injured that for some time his life was in danger. Wallis then tried to escape from the house, but was seized in the vicinity. He was brought before the magistrates, and Mrs. Coplestone and others were examined; but, as Mr. Coplestone was unable to attend, the prisoner was remanded.

On the 19th, the master and crew of the Lowestoft steamer, were *Assaulted by a body of Wreckers*, while giving assistance to a vessel stranded in the vicinity of Lowestoft harbour. The owners of the stranded vessel had contracted with the Harbour Company, who had undertaken to bring the vessel into port by means of their steamer; but a number of the beachmen, resolving to secure the salvage to themselves, proceeded to the wreck in boats loaded with stones, and commenced a violent attack on the crew of the steamer with stones and boat-hooks, wounding several of them severely, and driving them from their employment. Two of the ringleaders were brought before the chairman of the quarter sessions; one was fined 4*l*., which was immediately paid by his comrades; and the other was discharged unpunished, the magistrate at the same time addressing the men upon the illegality and disgraceful nature of their proceedings.

At the Central Criminal Court on the 23rd, Elizabeth Gilday, a decent, careworn looking woman, with an infant in her arms, surrendered to take her trial for *Bigamy*. The evidence proved that in June, 1835, the prisoner was married to her first husband, who turned out to be an habitual felon, and she suffered brutal ill-treatment at his hands. Subsequently he was transported for seven years, leaving her with one child quite destitute, whom it appeared she had honestly brought up by hard labour, and her conduct had been most exemplary. Once during her husband's period of transportation he had written to her, and hearing no more of him she married again in August, 1847, John Fletcher, with whom she still lived, and had two children. Her second husband was a most respectable man and much attached to her, and they lived comfortably until the return of the first husband from transportation about three months ago. The jury found her guilty, but recommended her to mercy, and she was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

At the last Surrey quarter sessions, the subject of *Enormous Increase of Crime* in the county, and the deficiency in the police arrangements, was introduced by Mr. Austen, who moved for a committee to report upon the means of adopting a rural police. The motion was agreed to without opposition; but Colonel Chaloner remarked, that though the neighbouring county of Essex was paying 16,000*l*. a-year for their constabulary, this did not prevent the recent commission of a most dreadful murder. Captain Mangles in supporting the motion said, that the utmost terror prevailed in the county, and a general feeling of insecurity existed in the minds of the inhabitants, which was very much increased by the dreadful occurrence that had recently taken place. For his own part, his own house had been armed for a long time, and he never went to bed without having a six-barrelled revolving pistol under his pillow.

An inquest has been held at Guy's Hospital on the body of a lad named Robert Minton, an apprentice to a tailor in the city, who, it was alleged, had *Died from Neglect*. It appeared that he worked from six o'clock in the morning till ten and eleven at night, and on Saturdays still later; that his bed was dirty, his sheets not having been washed for three years. His mother stated that his master's wife treated him unkindly. He had come home some days before, and said he was very bad; he was crying, and said, "Oh, God has heard my prayer." He begged of witness to take him away from his place. The mother went to the mistress, and asked her to let the deceased have a basin of gruel, as he was very ill. The reply was, "Gruel indeed; what next?" The jury found that the lad had died of typhus fever, and gave their opinion that he had been very unkindly treated.

Several men have died from *Drinking Spirits to Excess*. A large body were employed at Liverpool in repairing an embankment, when a puncheon of rum was washed ashore from a wrecked vessel. They immediately seized the prize, disputing and fighting for its contents. In every direction the men were to be seen prostrate from the effects of their immoderate draughts, and it is matter of astonishment that many did not perish in endeavouring to reach their homes through an adjoining marsh. Two or three were taken up dead, and several others in a dangerous state. One of the dead was a strong young man of twenty-five, who has left a widow and family.

A *Number of cases of Crime* have occurred during this month, the details of which it has been found impossible to give; but they have been briefly noticed in the Summary.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

ACCOUNTS have been received of the *Shipwreck of the Mary Florence*, a vessel which left England in February last with a supply of coals for the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at Aden. This disaster was attended with most melancholy circumstances. The master, Captain Christopher Short, had a small share in the vessel. He was accompanied by his wife, and the crew, consisting of first and second officers, carpenter, steward, and twelve seamen. The ship, as he states, came in sight of the Comoro Islands in the Mozambique Channel on the 25th of May, and Cape Guardafi, on the 3rd of June. The latter is a headland, forming the extreme eastern portion of the African coast, a few hundred miles S.E. of the port of Aden and the entrance of the Red Sea. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon when the Cape, as the master supposed it to be, was sighted—though, from what has since transpired, it is evident he was mistaken, and that he had taken the tops of high mountains inland for the headland of the point. This mistake proved fatal, for in the course of the night the ship ran ashore. An unsuccessful attempt was made next day to get her off with the assistance of the natives, who affected to be friendly, and it was determined to land the ship's stores and other valuables on the beach. On the afternoon of the second day, as the weather was becoming boisterous, it was determined to effect a passage for Mrs. Short, but this was no sooner done than the natives seized her, and drove the sailors who accompanied her into the sea. Captain Short believing, it would seem, that any

attempt to rescue his wife and comrades would be unavailing, left the place next day in the long-boat with the remaining portion of his crew. They took a course along the coast, and after enduring great privation and barbarous treatment from the natives wherever they landed, they succeeded in reaching Muscat.

As soon as Captain Short had partially recovered from the exposure and privation he had endured during the fifteen days and nights at sea in the long boat, he sought a passage in the first vessel for Bombay. On his arrival there he communicated the circumstances to the authorities, and prevailed on them to despatch a steamer to attempt the rescue of his wife and the portion of his crew who were left behind. Before she sailed, however, intelligence arrived from Aden that a portion of the crew had been taken off the coast by Captain Ramsay, of the Columbia, on the 12th of August; but that the remainder, and also Mrs. Short, had perished in an attempt to escape from the natives. It is now ascertained that poor Mrs. Short, with the other sufferers, met their fate on the evening of the same day that they landed from the wreck. She contrived to free herself from the clutches of the natives, and rushed down to the beach where the boat's crew were assembled. They managed to get the boat which broke away from the wreck when Captain Short was about coming off with assistance; and at the earnest entreaties of Mrs. Short it was determined to make an attempt to regain the ship. Amidst so great a surf it appeared hopeless, but the fear of remaining in the hands of the natives during the night induced them to risk it. The boat was got off, but was soon swamped, and all of them perished.

The Overland Mail has brought news of the *Wreck of Three Fine Indiamen*. The Ariadne of Greenock sailed from Calcutta for England in July; and about three weeks afterwards a wreck was discovered near Palmyras' Point, on the coast of India, which proved to be the Ariadne, without a living soul on board. The chief mate was picked up by a steamer, twelve days after the vessel was wrecked; he had reached the land on a spar, and was nearly dead from exhaustion. It appeared from what he said that the master and crew had been carried out to sea on a raft, in a gale of wind, and it was apprehended that all had perished.—The Manchester, of London, was wrecked off the Sangor Islands on the 6th of August, a few days sail from Calcutta; the people on board escaped by the boats before she went to pieces.—And the Nereid, also of London, foundered on the morning of the 9th of July, but the crew were saved. The loss of the three ships exceeded 100,000*l.* sterling.

A thief *Met his Death* by a dreadful accident on the 24th of September, at the Derby Railway Station. A middle-aged man, of rather shabby exterior, had been observed in the station-yard in the course of the evening. The London mail-train arrived as usual at half past ten, and the stoker imagined he could detect a slight collision when near a luggage-train that had arrived shortly before. Upon mentioning this circumstance, an examination took place, when the body of the man who had been observed in the yard in the former part of the evening, was discovered in a shockingly mutilated condition. The whole of the carriages had passed over it. Near to the body were three parcels which he had succeeded in extracting from the luggage-carriages, and it appeared evident that he was engaged in robbing the carriages when the London train came up.

On the 28th of September an *Explosion of Fire-damp* took place at Coed Poeth coalpits, near Wrexham, whereby three men were killed and two others desperately injured. At the inquest on their bodies a verdict was returned of Accidental Death. The jury recorded their opinion that no blame could be attached to the proprietor or to the manager of the pit, it being found, on examination, ventilated in the usual way. During the examination of one of the witnesses, it transpired that the pit was much more subject to sulphur than any other pit in that part. The coroner drew the attention of all present to the importance of using the safety-lamp. The men, in reply, said that it gave so imperfect a light they could not get near as much coal with the safety-lamp as they could do with a candle. The coroner contended that was a trifling consideration compared with the misery entailed by these dreadful accidents.

On the evening of the 29th ult., as the down-train was proceeding between Walcot and Upton Magna stations, a man named Daniel Burgess, a groom in the employ of Mr. Nightingale and Captain Muckleston of Shrewsbury, was riding in the guard's or break van with several others, among whom was his wife, standing up (there being no room for them in the carriages); he was leaning against the side-doors, when they flew open, and he was precipitated out. The train was going at great speed at the time. Immediate search was made for Burgess, who was discovered near the opposite rails with his skull dreadfully fractured, and quite dead. It is supposed that in falling his head must have pitched against the rail on the other line, the concussion of which, from the great velocity of the train, must have caused instant death. He has left a wife and ten children.

The extensive premises of Messrs. Brooke, tallow melters and chandlers, in the Southwark Bridge Road, were *Burnt Down* on the night of the 3rd. While the workmen were melting tallow in a large pan, the mass caught fire; the men attempted to smother it, but were obliged to retreat, and in a few moments the flames spread in every direction. An engine-station was placed immediately opposite the spot, and in five minutes the engine was at work; but from the combustible nature of the stock, the firemen could do nothing to save the factory; however, they prevented the fire from getting a firm hold on the contiguous buildings.

Mr. Hatchwell the station-master at Bury St. Edmunds, and Mr. Walton, the station-master at Thurston, on the Eastern Union Railway, were *Accidentally Killed* on the morning of the 4th. Having some business which required speedy conveyance, they seated themselves on the top of one of the carriages; and in passing under a bridge, their heads struck the arch with a force which caused the instant death of both. At the inquest, the engineer of the line stated that their riding on the roof of the carriage, was a breach of discipline, and that they had subjected themselves to dismissal for leaving their stations without order. They had been ten years in the service of the company.

Mr. M'Neil, sheriff substitute of Wigtonshire, *was Killed* on the 5th, by a fall from his dog-cart. The horse took fright, and the boy who drove being unable to hold him, Mr. M'Neil, in seizing the reins, was thrown upon the road and almost immediately expired.

A *Fatal Accident* took place on the 6th, in the Bristol Channel. A party of gentlemen hired a boat at Bristol to take a trip down the Channel. It blew a stiff gale when they set out; and the boat, through the mismanagement of an amateur steersman, was capsized on the return homewards. Seven of the party were saved by some boats which happened to be near; but four—Mr. Evan Jefferies, Mr. Thomas Rich, Mr. George Packer, and Mr. William Lodge (who was the steersman), were unfortunately drowned.

There was *A Storm* of extraordinary extent and violence on Sunday and Monday, the 6th and 7th. The wind, from the South and West-south-west, drove the water out of the Thames to such an extent, that at low tide on Monday the river was almost unnavigable. In the Pool, tiers of vessels were aground; and even the small steamers could not ply above bridge.—At Nottingham, much damage was done to buildings. A tall and insecurely-built stack of chimneys, with portions of the roof, fell into a street at a place where a number of persons had assembled round Wombwell's show; a boy was killed on the spot, and a woman was so maimed that her life is in danger, and a good many other persons were seriously hurt.—Disasters to shipping are reported from the coasts at all points, but in most cases without loss of life. The Juffrow Jantje, a Dutch galliot, was wrecked in the East Bay of Dungeness, and only one man of the crew was saved.—The storm was very violent at Dover. The sea rose to a great height, flooding the quays and promenades. The works which were being carried on for the construction of the harbour of refuge were completely destroyed. Enormous piles, eighteen inches square, were snapped asunder, and everything upon them overthrown. Three large diving-bells, which were used in the construction of the works, were carried away into the sea. The works have been

entirely suspended; the damage done amounts to many thousand pounds.—At Liverpool, great damage was done to the shipping, even in the docks. A fine ship, the Providence, which left the port on Sunday for the coast of Africa, struck on the Burbo Bank, at the mouth of the Mersey. As soon as the accident was known, the Magazine life-boat was taken by a steam-tug to the locality, and managed to rescue thirteen persons; but the first and second mate, and twenty-one of the crew perished. The Arcturus, from Ibrail, struck on Crosby Point, and became a total wreck; the pilot and first mate were drowned. The Aurora, from Cardiff, was also lost, near Holyhead; but her people escaped.—Two vessels were lost on the sands off Yarmouth, within sight of a fishing-lugger, which could render no assistance. One ship was dashed to pieces; the other struck the sands, got off again, and then foundered: every soul perished. From the size of the vessels, it is calculated that twenty men must have been drowned.—Many wrecks and minor casualties are reported from Wales, but without loss of life.

On the 8th, about noon, *a Boat was Lost* belonging to the Dolphin, revenue-cutter, containing five men, one a custom-house officer, and four rowers. When leaving a brig they had boarded opposite Woolwich Dockyard, they cast off at the moment the Sylph, Woolwich Company's steam-packet, was approaching; and before the boat could get out of the way and the steamer eased, it was cut in two, and the whole of the men went under the wheel of the steamer. Four of the men were saved; but one, named Manning, was drowned, and another severely hurt. There was no blame attached to the Sylph, as her captain and crew did all in their power to avert the accident.

On the 8th, an *Explosion* occurred at the powder-mills of Messrs. Hall, near Faversham. Providentially the workmen were not in the mill at the time; and the damage was confined to the destruction of the building in which the explosion took place.

A little boy of seven years old was literally *Cut to Pieces* at Newton, near Malgate, in Yorkshire, on the 9th. He was the son of Smith Deuce, a brick-maker, and had gone into the brick-shed where his father worked. The clay in this yard is worked by machinery, being put into an aperture filled with clay-knives, and the whole set in motion by steam-power. The engine on this occasion was at work, and the poor child accidentally fell in amongst the knives, and was instantly killed.

A *Destructive Fire* broke out on the evening of the 19th, on the premises of Mr. Bennington, a painter and glazier, in Grange Road, Bermondsey, in consequence of Mr. Bennington having let a lighted candle fall into some liquid varnish which he was preparing. Several engines were speedily on the spot, but owing to the want of water they were comparatively useless, and Mr. Bennington's premises, his furniture, stock in trade, were totally consumed. He was not insured, and his family, who a few hours previously were in comparatively affluent circumstances, have been reduced to a state of utter destitution.

On the 19th, Mr. Longfield, a druggist in Leeds, was nearly killed by the *Imprudent use of Naphtha;* while pouring this substance from a large into a smaller vessel, it ignited at a lamp which he had placed on the floor near the vessel. In a moment he was enveloped in flames, and was so dreadfully burned that for some time it was doubted whether he would recover.

On the evening of the 23rd a young man was *Killed* at the terminus of the London and South-Western Railway, Waterloo Road. A number of men were engaged at the usual hour making ready the train for Southampton, when Thomas Martin, one of the company's porters, made an attempt to cross through a vacancy between a number of carriages. Unfortunately at that instant six or seven men, who did not perceive that Martin was crossing the rails, pushed a number of carriages forward with such violence as to force the poor fellow against the buffers of the carriages. He was speedily extricated, and removed to St. Thomas's Hospital, where he died soon after his admission.

On the night of the 23rd, a bailiff named Andy was *Shot Dead* at Newtown, in Tipperary. He went to serve in order from the Tipperary Bank on Luby, a farmer, who, on seeing him enter, deliberately laid hold of his gun, and advancing to within two or three yards of him fired, and literally tore open the belly and side of the unfortunate man. It is needless to say he died instantaneously. The poor man had sent his wife to America last summer, and expected to join her as soon as she would be able to send him a remittance.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

ONE of the letters on "Labour and the Poor," recently published in the Morning Chronicle, contains some *Remarkable Omnibus Statistics*. The total number of omnibuses traversing the streets of London is about 3000, paying duty (including mileage), averaging 9*l.* per month each, or 324,000*l.* per annum. The number of conductors and drivers is about 700, paying annually 5*s.* each for their licenses, or 175*0l.* collectively. The receipts of each vehicle vary from 2*l.* to 4*l.* per day; estimating the whole 3000 at 3*l.*, it follows that the entire sum expended annually in omnibus hire by the people of London amounts to no less than 3,285,000*l.* The average journey, as regards length, of each omnibus, is six miles, and that distance is, in some cases, travelled twelve times a day by each omnibus. Taking the average as between forty-five and fifty miles a day travelled by each omnibus, and computing the omnibuses running daily at 3000, we find "a travel" of upwards of 140,000 miles daily, or a yearly "travel" of more than fifty millions of miles. On each of its journeys, an omnibus carries on the average fifteen persons. Nearly all are licensed to carry twenty-two (thirteen inside and nine out), and that number perhaps is sometimes exceeded, while fifteen is a fair computation; for as every omnibus has now the fares of 3*d.* and 6*d.*, there are two sets of passengers, and the number of fifteen through the whole distance on each journey of the omnibus, is (as has been said,) a fair computation, for sometimes the vehicle is almost empty, as a set-off to its being crammed at other times. This computation shows the daily "travel," reckoning ten journeys a day, of 450,000 passengers. Thus we might be led to believe that about one-fourth of the entire population of the metropolis and its suburbs —men, women, and children; the inmates of hospitals, gaols, and workhouses; paupers, peers, and their families all included—were daily travelling in omnibuses. But it must be borne in mind that as most omnibus travellers use that convenient mode of conveyance at least twice a day, we may compute the number of individuals at 225,000, or, allowing three journeys as an average daily travel, at 150,000. The extent of individual travel performed by some of the omnibus drivers is enormous. One man stated that he had driven "his bus" 72 miles (12 stages of six miles) every day for six years, with the exception of twelve miles less every second Sunday, so that this man had driven in six years, 179,568 miles.

An *Experimental School for Juvenile Delinquents* has been formed at Aberdeen by Mr. Watson, the sheriff. A preliminary meeting was held on the evening of the 7th, in the soup-kitchen in Loch Street, which has been appropriated for the school. About thirty young thieves were present. A plentiful supply of coffee and rolls was provided; and they appeared greatly delighted with their treat. The sheriff urged the boys to come back next morning at eight, to be fed, taught, and amused all day, and get home in the evening at seven. They would have (he said) a little work to do, they would get abundance of food, useful instruction, and plenty of play. The school would be open for two months, and by that time, he hoped employment would be got for the big boys, and the younger might be transferred to one of the Juvenile Industrial Schools. On his appealing to them whether they wished to live honestly or not, vehement responses of "Yes, yes," were returned. In answer to their previous statement, that their parents required them to do something to help them, the sheriff said that nothing was more necessary than that their parents should get food, but if they came to the school and gave sufficient evidence of their need, they would get it, or the boys might take it home to them at night. This promise drew forth joyous expressions. The boys

all agreed to come to the school, expressing their willingness to work. The ages of the boys were thirteen and under—none being admitted above thirteen years of age. On the opening of the school, twenty-two boys presented themselves and were next day admitted. Since then, the attendance has continued the same, and the attention to work and study has been, with the aid of a little corporal castigation, very satisfactory.

An act of *Munificent Charity* has been done by Miss Howard, of York Place. She has assigned over to trustees 45,000*l.*, for the erection of twenty-one houses on her property at Pinner, near Harrow, in the form of a crescent; the centre house for the trustees, the other twenty houses for the use of twenty widows, who are to occupy them free of rent and taxes, and also to receive 50*l.* a-year clear of all deductions. The widows of naval men to have the preference, then those of military men, and, lastly, those of clergymen; none but persons of good character to be selected, to be chosen or dismissed for misconduct by the trustees. The deed is now enrolled in Chancery, and approved of by the Lord Chancellor. The trustees are the Earl of Fingal, and W. A. Mackinnon, Esq., M.P.

The *Free Grammar School at Richmond*, erected as a testimonial to the memory of the late Canon Tate, who was one of the most successful teachers in England, was opened with much ceremony on the 3rd. The Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Ripon, the Earl of Zetland, the Earl of Lovelace, the Mayor and Corporation of Richmond, with many other persons of distinction, took part in the proceedings.

A general meeting of the *Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge*, was held on the 1st of October; Archdeacon Sinclair in the chair. It appeared by a letter from the Bishop of Montreal (Dr. Fulford), that he had arrived in his diocese, and met with a gratifying reception both from clergy and laity. Various letters were read from several colonial prelates, including the Bishops of Toronto, Quebec, Fredricton, Adelaide, Newfoundland, Antigua, and Cape Town, and grants were voted towards the erection of churches and other objects in their several sees. On the application of Dr. Gobat, Bishop of the English Church in Jerusalem, a large supply of the Society's version of psalms in Arabic was granted for distribution in the East. An interesting letter from the Rev. William Armstrong, chaplain at Valparaiso, respecting the exemplary community forming the population of Pitcairn's Island, was listened to with much interest. The sum of 1,000*l.* was voted towards the new bishopric in the settlement of Canterbury, New Zealand.; and 3,000*l.* was placed at the disposal of the Bishop of Toronto, towards the endowment of a college in connection with the Church of England in his diocese. Many schools and lending libraries in England and Wales were aided with grants of books, as were also poor emigrants quitting the English shore.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert has *Presented a Donation* of 50*l.* in aid of the Association for the Establishment of Evening Classes for young men.

On the 10th, the Common Council of London *Voted a Grant* of one hundred guineas in aid of the Jews' Free School, where 1100 children are well and morally taught. A similar sum was granted to the Church of England Sunday School Institute.

The *New Stamp Act* came into operation on the 10th inst. The following are some of its most important articles. An agreement, or memorandum of an agreement, where the matter shall be of the value of 20*l.* or upwards, will be liable to a duty of only 2*s.* 6*d.* where the same does not exceed 1080 words, and according to its length, a progressive duty of 2*s.* 6*d.* On bonds not exceeding 50*l.* the duty will be only 1*s.* 6*d.*; and so on. The *ad valorem* duty will be charged to 7*s.* 6*d.* on 300*l.*, and when the same shall exceed 300*l.*, then for every 100*l.*, and also for any fractional part of 100*l.*, the charge will be 2*s.* 6*d.* The several kinds of bonds known in the law are set forth, and the duties prescribed according to the amount. With respect to conveyances of property, where the purchase or consideration therein or thereupon expressed shall not exceed 25*l.*, a duty of 2*s.* 6*d.*, and so on progressively to 600*l.*, when the duty will be 3*l.*, and 10*s.* for every additional 100*l.* As to leases of lands, tenements, &c., at a yearly rent without premium, the duty will be according to the yearly rent, from 6*d.* to 10*s.*, which last mentioned duty will be when the rent does not exceed 100*l.* The *ad valorem* is charged on the premium paid. On mortgages the duty will be 1*s.* 3*d.*, where the sum does not exceed 50*l.*, up to 7*s.* 6*d.*, for 300*l.*; and beyond that sum, 2*s.* 6*d.* for every additional 100*l.* Settlements are liable to a higher rate of duty; when the value of the property settled upon any good or valuable consideration, other than a *bonâ fide* pecuniary consideration, does not exceed 100*l.*, the duty will be 5*s.*, and an additional 5*s.* on every 100*l.* Sellers of receipt stamps are now allowed 7*l.* 10*s.* in the 100*l.*, in lieu of one half per cent.

The *New County Courts Act* contains a provision under which actions can be tried in the County Court for more than 50*l.* It is enacted by the 17th section, that if the parties shall agree, by a memorandum signed by them or their attorneys, the County Court may try actions beyond the amount limited, or any action in which the title to land, whether of freehold, copyhold, leasehold, or other tenure, or to any tithe, toll, market, or other franchise, shall be in question. It also contains a provision respecting professional remuneration, whereby an attorney shall be entitled to a sum not exceeding 1*l.* 10*s.* for his fees and costs, where the debt or demand claimed shall not exceed 35*l.*, or 2*l.* in any other cause within the jurisdiction given by the act; and in no case shall any fee exceeding 2*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* be allowed for employing a barrister as counsel in the cause, and the expense of employing a barrister or any attorney either by plaintiff or defendant shall not be allowed on taxation of costs unless by order of the judge.

A *Temperance Festival* was held on the 14th, at the London Tavern. The company, between five and six hundred, were entertained with tea, speeches, and "temperance melodies." The principal speaker was Mr. George Cruickshank, the celebrated artist, who was vehemently applauded. He was there, he said, to declare his adhesion to that great and glorious cause. He had been a teetotaller three years and a half; he was sorry he had not been so all his life; but he would keep the pledge now as long as he existed. He had twice had wine prescribed as a medicine, but he had refused it at the risk of his life. In the room in which they were assembled, all the great national interests had been from time to time advocated; he had himself acted as steward on occasions when the late lamented Duke of Cambridge presided—great and glorious occasions, but none of them surpassing in importance that on which they were assembled. It was gratifying to behold a meeting of teetotallers in one of the first rooms in the City of London, where wine had flowed in torrents, not to mention oceans of brandy and whiskey-punch. He recently attended a costermongers' supper and ball, both which passed off very pleasantly; two drunken men forced themselves into the assembly with a view to create a disturbance, but the good sense and sobriety of the company completely defeated their object. He regretted that he had not the means of rendering pecuniary assistance to this cause, but he hoped to be able to aid it with his pencil or pen. From his previous efforts in this way he had not derived the least profit; but if they had promoted the temperance cause in the slightest degree, he was satisfied. It appeared by a statement read by one of the secretaries, that it is intended to make some characteristic demonstration at the time of the great Industrial Exhibition of 1851.

A new mode of *Appropriation of the Prisons of the Metropolis* to distinct classes of offenders came into operation at the beginning of this month. All the female prisoners, and all male prisoners under seventeen years of age, were removed from the House of Correction at Coldbathfields to the House of Correction at Westminster; and all male prisoners above seventeen were removed from the latter place to Coldbathfields. Prisoners committed under the Hackney Carriage Act, and for want of sureties, were removed from both those prisons to the House of Detention. Nearly 900 persons were thus transposed.

Negotiations have been entered into with the Lords of the Admiralty and Government authorities for the establishment of *a Submarine Telegraph across St.*

George's Channel, upon a similar though much more extensive scale to that now being undertaken between England and France. From the extreme western coast of Ireland to Halifax, the nearest telegraphic station in America, the distance is 2155 miles; and as this might be accomplished by the steamers in five or six days, it is apprehended that England, by means of telegraphic communication, may be put in possession of intelligence from America in six days, instead of as now in twelve or fourteen.

All operations connected with *the Submarine Telegraph* between England and France are now suspended till next spring. The interval will be employed in manufacturing the wire cables and other apparatus, so that the electric line may be completed by May. Messrs. Fox & Henderson, the contractors for the completing of the Cork and Bandon Railway, have been declared contractors for making the wire cables.

An inquiry of a very serious character, which has been going on for some time into the character of some of the *Cadets at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich*, has been brought to a close. In consequence of some practices too gross to be particularised, by some of the students who had recently joined from the new training school at Carshalton, the Master-General of the Ordnance ordered a committee of inquiry to assemble and investigate the circumstances. The first result was the dismissal of three students from the Academy, who had been convicted of these practices. The result of the labours of the committee has been the expulsion of six more out of the ten students who had joined the Academy, making nine in all, and the peremptory dismissal of twenty-three scholars from the Carshalton School.

The recent act "to amend the Law relating to *Benefices in Plurality*," provides that no person appointed to the deanery of any cathedral church shall be allowed to hold the office of head ruler of any college or hall within either the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, or the office of provost of Eton College, or of warden of Winchester College, or of master of the Charter-house, together with his deanery. This enactment is not to apply to the dean of the Cathedral Church of Christ in Oxford, as chief ruler of the college there maintained. Heads of colleges in the universities are not to hold cathedral preferment except in cases where benefices or cathedral preferments may be permanently attached to or form part of the endowment of the office.

A Ball was given to the *Inmates of St. Luke's Hospital*, upon St. Luke's day, the 18th. It was the first occasion of this kind which has taken place at St. Luke's, and from the successful issue of the undertaking it may be expected to be repeated. Between sixty and seventy of the patients, men and women, were assembled at six o'clock in the evening in the great hall, and music being provided, they were quickly arranged in their places for the old English country dance. This, with appropriate changes, was kept up with great spirit until nine o'clock, when all retired peaceably and cheerfully to their respective apartments. The officers of the establishment, with such nurses and attendants as could be spared from the galleries, joined merrily in the dance. By this means the confidence of the patients was secured, and they showed themselves grateful for the enjoyment afforded them, by entering into the amusement without levity or boisterous conduct of any kind. There are at present 196 patients in the hospital—91 men and 105 women. The average of cure during the last year was 60½ per cent., being a considerable improvement upon former years.

The Board of Directors of the *Asylum for Idiots* have just issued an appeal to the public. They have under under their care, at Park House, Highgate, and Essex Hall, Colchester, no less than 129 patients, and the total number of persons the institution has dependent upon it is 163. There are now 170 eligible patients seeking admission at the ensuing election, and the board can only venture to admit fifteen of the number. They are anxious to erect a building properly adapted to the care and education of the idiot, which, they say, ought to contain not less than three hundred beds, and which will be arranged so as to serve in all respects as a model institution. Her Majesty has set an example of patronage by a contribution of 250 guineas, so as to secure a perpetual presentation to a bed, the right to be exercised by the Prince of Wales.

On Friday, the 25th a *Grand Banquet* was given at York by the Lord Mayor and municipality of that city, in return for the banquet given in March last by the Lord Mayor of London to the municipal towns of the United Kingdom. The entertainment, given in the Guildhall of York, was of the most splendid description. It was honoured by the presence of Prince Albert, ninety-four mayors of boroughs, representing all the different portions of the United Kingdom; and the numerous company included Lord John Russell, several members of the Government, and the Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851. Among the addresses after dinner the greatest interest was excited by that of Prince Albert, after his health had been proposed by the Lord Mayor of York and drank with the utmost enthusiasm. His Royal Highness dwelt upon the preparations for and prospects of the approaching great Exhibition. "I see," he said, "in your anxiety to meet us, her Majesty's Commissioners, again, a proof of your earnest and continued zeal in the cause of the approaching Exhibition. It could not be by the impetus of a momentary enthusiasm, but only by a steady perseverance and sustained efforts, that you could hope to carry out your great undertaking, and ensure for yourselves and the nation an honourable position in the comparison which you have invited. If to cheer you on your labours, by no means terminated, you should require an assurance that that spirit of activity and perseverance is abroad in the country, I can give you that assurance on the ground of the information which reaches us from all quarters; and I can add to it our personal conviction, that the works in preparation will be such as to dispel any apprehension for the position which British industry will maintain. From abroad, also, all accounts which we receive lead us to expect that the works to be sent will be numerous and of a superior character. Although we perceive in some countries an apprehension that the advantages to be derived from the Exhibition will be mainly reaped by England, and a consequent distrust in the effects of our scheme upon their own interests, we must, at the same time, freely and gratefully acknowledge that our invitation has been received by all nations with whom communication was possible, in that spirit of liberality and friendship in which it was tendered, and that they are making great exertions, and incurring great expenses, in order to meet our plans." His Royal Highness paid a graceful tribute to the memory of Sir Robert Peel; observing that, only at their last meeting they were admiring his eloquence, and the earnestness with which he appealed to them to uphold by their exertions and personal sacrifices what was to him the highest object, the honour of his country. He concluded by saying that, viewing the practical nature of the English character, he was pleased when he saw the plan of the Exhibition of 1851 undergo its ordeal of doubt, discussion, and even opposition; and that he hoped he might now gather, from the energy with which its execution was pursued, that the nation was convinced that it accorded with the interests of England, and the position which she held in the world. Lord John Russell, the Archbishop of York, the Earl of Carlisle, the Lord Mayor of London, and other distinguished persons, also addressed the meeting.

A great *Diminution of Crime* in the counties of Gloucester and Somerset is apparent from the reports made to the Quarter Sessions for those counties, just concluded. The tables from the House of Correction in Gloucestershire detailed a decrease in the number of prisoners, and the disposition of those in charge was much improved. There has been likewise a decrease in the cost of maintaining these houses, of 25 per cent., owing partly to an abundance of labour and partly to the cheapness of provisions. In Somersetshire for the year ending Michaelmas, 1849, there were 740 persons committed for trial; but in the year just ended, viz., at Michaelmas, the committals were only 589, being a diminution of 152, and the character of the various offences on the whole has been much lighter. This satisfactory condition of the country is to be attributed to the improved condition of the working-classes, and the general sufficiency of labour in the country.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

The Queen and Prince Albert continued to enjoy the tranquil residence at Balmoral till the 10th, on the morning of which day they departed for the South. They arrived at Edinburgh about seven in the evening. Preparations had been made to give a loyal welcome; and among the features of the demonstration, was a bonfire piled to the height of forty feet on the summit of Arthur's Seat. The blazing mass consisted of thirty tons of coal, a vast quantity of wood saturated with oil and turpentine, and a thousand tar-barrels. It was kindled at five o'clock, and the flames are said to have been seen by the Queen for many miles of her route on both sides of the Forth.—Her Majesty was received at the decorated platform of the railway by Sheriff Gordon and other dignitaries; and a military escort lined the way to Holyrood Palace.—The Royal party left Edinburgh next morning, and arrived in the evening at Buckingham Palace; and on Saturday, the 12th, they went to Osborne.

The Duchess of Kent arrived in town on the 10th, from Dalmahoy, the seat of the Earl of Morton, near Edinburgh.

Intelligence has been received from the *Arctic Expedition in Search of Sir John Franklin*. The North Star, which went out as a tender-ship to the expedition of Sir James Clark Ross a year and a half ago, returned unexpectedly to Spithead on the 28th of September, bringing dispatches from the ships of the four expeditions which went out early this year. The Prince Albert, a ship dispatched in July last, under Captain Forsyth, to make a special search beyond Brentford Bay, returned to Aberdeen on the 29th ult. Dispatches from Captain Ommaney, Captain Penny, Sir John Ross, and Captain Forsyth, have been published by the Admiralty; but they throw little or no light on the fate of the missing voyagers. It appears that some Esquimaux were fallen in with near Cape York, who told a story which was interpreted to be "that in the winter of 1846, when the snow was falling, two ships were broken by the ice a good way off in the direction of Cape Dudley Diggs, and afterwards burned by a fierce and numerous tribe of natives. The ships were not whalers—epaulettes were worn by some of the white men. A part of the crews were drowned; the remainder were some time in huts or tents, apart from the natives; they had guns, but no balls, were in a weak and exhausted condition, and were subsequently killed by the natives with darts or arrows." This was the version given by one Adam Beck, Captain Ross's Esquimaux interpreter; but Captain Penny's interpreter was totally at variance with the other, whom he called a liar; and the commanders of the expedition were incredulous as to the story. From the information brought by the Prince Albert, it appears that what seemed to be traces of the missing expedition had been found in the direction of the Wellington Channel, a situation that was considered likely. These were, the vestiges of five tents, and the remains of provisions, probably left by a party who had lost their ship or ships, but how long ago there were no means of judging. There was a piece of rope, which was sent home for examination, and appears to have been probably a part of the Arctic stores sent from Chatham to Woolwich for the Erebus and Terror, in 1845. The search was going on, by all the parties engaged in it, with undiminished zeal and activity.

On the 28th of September, Mr. Alderman Musgrove was elected Lord Mayor of London. The Sheriffs for the ensuing year are Alderman Robert Watson Gordon, cutler, and Mr. G. Edm. Hodgkinson, spectacle-maker.

The Right Hon. J. H. Monahan, late Attorney-General in Ireland, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, subject to any reduction in the salary and income of the office which Parliament may make, in accordance with the report of the committee of the House of Commons upon official, diplomatic, and judicial salaries. Mr. Hatchell, the Solicitor-General (M.P. for Windsor), becomes Attorney-General, and the Solicitor-Generalship is conferred upon Mr. Henry George Hughes, Q.C., an eminent member of the Chancery bar.

The Rev. Dr. Townsend, recently made Dean of Waterford, is raised to the vacant Bishopric of Meath. The see of Meath yields an annual income of 4000*l.*, with extensive patronage.

Lord Gough has received the freedom of the burgh of Inverness. His first triumph in the field was as a lieutenant of light infantry in the 78th Highlanders, raised in the immediate vicinity of Inverness. The name of Lord Gough immediately succeeds that of Prince Albert on the burgess roll of Inverness.

The late Vice-Chancellor Sir James Wigram has retired upon an annuity of 3500*l.*

Obituary of Notable Persons.

The Baroness de Neumann, née Lady Augustus Somerset, eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, and wife of Baron Neumann, formerly Austrian Minister at the Court of St. James's, died in childbed at Vienna, on the 20th ult.

Mrs. Maclean, the wife of D. Maclean, Esq., M.P. for Oxford, was killed in the prime of life, at Castellamare, near Naples, on the 20th ult. She was taking a drive in her carriage, when the horses took fright and ran away, and she sustained such severe injuries that she expired a few hours afterwards.

Lord Leigh died at Bonn on the 27th of September, in his 60th year. He had left England some weeks before, for the benefit of his health.

Thomas Amyott, Esq., F.R.S., and F.S.A., for many years Treasurer to the Society of Antiquaries, died on the 28th ult. at his residence, 13, James Street, Buckingham Gate, in the 76th year of his age.

Rear-Admiral Sir J. Marshall died on the 30th ult. at Pendyffryn, near Conway, the residence of General Sir C. Smith, in consequence of a fall from a gig. He was in the 65th year of his age, had been in the navy half a century, and was a distinguished officer.

Mr. James Ingram, proprietor and landlord of the Fox Inn at Woodford, in Gloucestershire, died on the 2nd, in his 93rd year. He was the last survivor of the crew of the Royal George, which sank at Spithead on the 19th of August, 1782, having escaped almost miraculously the fate of his companions. Mr. Ingram had seen a great deal of service, having been at the siege of Gibraltar, and in many naval actions. His sight and health were remarkably good up to within a short time of his death. He was well known on the old coach-road from Gloucester to Bristol, as the coachmen used frequently to pull up to allow their passengers to see a veteran whose life had been marked by so singular an incident.

Miss Sarah Biffin, the celebrated miniature-painter, who was born without hands or arms, died at Liverpool on the 2nd, at the age of 66. For many years she supported herself by her art; but as age came on she fell into distressed circumstances, till a small annuity was purchased for her by subscription, through the benevolent exertions of Mr. Richard Rathbone of Liverpool.

Major-General Wingrove, of the Royal Marines, died on the 7th, aged 70.

The Rev. Dr. Thackeray, Provost of King's College, Cambridge, died at his residence in Wimpole Street, on the 21st, at the age of 73.

Sir William Wrixon Becher, Bart., died a few days ago at Ballygiblen, his seat in Ireland. He formerly represented Mallow in the House of Commons, and in 1831 he assumed the name of "Becher," in lieu of his patronymic, in accordance with the will of his mother's brother, and was that year created a baronet. He was born in 1780, and married in 1820 Miss O'Neill, the celebrated tragic actress, who survives him, by whom he leaves issue three sons and two daughters, his eldest son Henry, born in Sept., 1826, succeeding to the baronetcy.

The Duke of Palmella died at Lisbon, on the 12th. He was buried with great pomp and royal honours.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE apparently settled tranquillity of India continues to be matter of congratulation, but whispers of a coming storm against the Directors grow more and more distinct and ominous as the time approaches for Sir Charles Napier's return. He had selected the 5th of November as the day on which to begin his homeward journey; and this may possibly prefigure both the extent of the meditated "blow-up," and its interception by some wary Monteagle.

From the Colonies there is no worse or better tidings than the election of Dr. Lang to the Legislative

Council of New South Wales as Member for the City of Sydney. The contest was a narrow one, and its result may prove not unimportant. It exhibits the present strength of the democratic party in New South Wales in a somewhat grave light, and ought to receive proper attention from the authorities in Downing Street.

The accounts by the last *Overland Mail* are from Bombay to the 17th September, Calcutta to the 7th September, and Hong Kong to the 24th August.

The whole of *British India* was tranquil, but the petty civil war on the Nizam's borders still continued.

The native state of *Oude* seems inclined to rival the Nizam's territories in anarchy and misgovernment. It will be remembered that some months since an English officer was killed and two guns lost in an attack on the fort of a refractory vassal of the King of Onde. A second event of the same nature has occurred. The Rajah of Esanuggur had shown himself for some time unwilling to pay the portion of revenue due from him to the Oude government, and it became the duty of Lieutenant P. Orr to obtain these dues from him; but before resorting to more stringent measures he imprudently determined on an interview with the Rajah, who came attended by 200 armed followers. Lieutenant Orr had with him only a Jemadar's party of Sepoys. A discussion ensued, which terminated with blows. Lieutenant Orr received eleven wounds (seven were severe), and was with great difficulty carried off by his party, who behaved very well, and sustained considerable loss. The Rajah lost on his part his brother-in-law and three followers, and was himself wounded. As soon as the Rajah's followers had seen their master safe into his fort (which immediately opened a fire of grape on Lieutenant Orr's party), they commenced a pursuit, from which Lieutenant Orr with difficulty escaped into the districts of a rival Rajah.

The present aspect of the *Punjaub* is most encouraging; the population, now disarmed, have settled down into their former habits of industry. The breadth of land under cultivation this season is said to be unprecedented, and the crops are everywhere most promising.

Sir Charles Napier was to begin his homeward journey from Simla on the 5th of November, and the Governor-general was expected to return from Konawur to Simla at the end of September. It was then expected that his Lordship would visit the Punjaub.

Sir Charles Napier has issued a general order condemnatory of the conduct of those commanding officers who neglected to read and explain to their regiments the orders issued in October, 1849, by the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief, with a view to preparing the minds of the Sepoys for the withdrawal of Scinde allowances. To this neglect on the part of Major Troup, of the 66th Native Infantry, it will be remembered that the mutiny and consequent disbandment of that regiment were attributed by Sir Charles. In this order the Commander-in-Chief very clearly defines the duties of officers commanding regiments, brigades, and divisions; and states that his own period of service with the "noble Indian army" will very soon close.

The most important piece of intelligence from *Hong-Kong* is the continuation of the fearful mortality among the troops, which we noticed in last month's "Narrative." This mortality was chiefly in the 59th regiment, which had lost ninety men in about two months; while, among the Europeans belonging to the Engineers and the Artillery no unusual sickness had prevailed, and the community generally was healthy. This sickness, therefore, is ascribed to the unhealthiness of the barracks and the want of sufficient sanitary precautions. The mortality, however, had begun to abate.

A formidable *Insurrection* against the Chinese government had broken out in the province of Kwang-si. The leader, who is named Li-ting-pang, is said to be at the head of 50,000 men. He has assumed the title borne by the highest Tartar generals, and threatens to exterminate the present and restore the old Chinese dynasty.

The last *West India Mail* has brought advices from the principal colonies to the end of last month.

In *Jamaica* the cultivation of cotton is the great object of interest. An association has been formed in Kingston in order to test the capabilities of the island for the remunerative production of this plant; and Pembroke Hall, an estate adjacent to Kingston, has been leased for that purpose.

A coloured woman, named Moss, died in Kingston on the 1st of September, at the extraordinary *Age of 150 Years*. She was until within a short time of her dissolution in the enjoyment of all her faculties, and had not known a day's sickness during the last forty years of her existence.

The *Rains* which had fallen in Hanover, Westmoreland, Trelawny, and St. Anne's, were expected to assist very materially the planters with their next crops.

In *Barbadoes* the weather had been extremely sultry, with heavy showers of rain. The country looked beautifully green, and an immense crop of sugar was calculated upon by the most experienced planters. A fire took place on the 19th ult. at Pashfield estate, which destroyed property to the value of 1500*l*.

In *Trinidad*, commercial affairs were in a very unsatisfactory condition, and a scarcity of capital was complained of. A large number of properties had been advertised for public sale in December next on account of arrears due for the ward-rate. There was no sensible alteration in the wages of labourers. A few small proprietors were planting cotton, but more as essays than for speculation. Great dissatisfaction was expressed by the middle classes, and the owners of small properties, at the heavy taxation imposed, and a great many people would probably be driven from the island in consequence thereof. The crop shipped in 1850 amounted to 23,412 hogsheads, and it was estimated that the whole crop would amount to 24,000 hogsheads, showing a deficiency of 4000 hogsheads when compared with the yield of 1849. The prospect of next year's crop, however, was very favourable.

In *British Guiana*, the court of policy had held two sittings, at one of which, two despatches from Earl Grey were read, acknowledging certain communications from British Guiana, calling for changes in its legislative institutes, in which the noble earl expressed himself not unwilling to sanction certain alterations in the court of electors, the effect of which would be to increase the number of members and limit their tenure of office, provided such should be the wish of the court of policy. Governor Barkly also announced his readiness to carry these views into operation by increasing the financial representatives from six to ten.

There are advices from *the Cape of Good Hope* to the 5th of August. The most important article of intelligence is the annexation to the colony of a tract of land about 150 square miles in extent, lying east of Albert division and west of the Wilge river. The whole tract is designed and appropriated as a "National Reserve," for the use of the aborigines or persons of African descent; and no farms or lands within it will, unless otherwise directed, be granted to persons of European race. The tract is now occupied by the aborigines attached to the Wesleyan missionary station at the Wittebergen. The Wilge River, now the eastern boundary of the colony, is henceforth to be known as the Tees.

Papers from *Sydney* have been received to the 1st of August. Dr. Lang had been elected representative of the city of Sydney in the legislative council, by a majority of 25, the votes for him having been 970 and for his opponent, Mr. Holden, 945. On being declared duly elected, he addressed the multitude, and was then drawn home in his carriage by his partisans.

From *South Australia* there are favourable accounts of the progress of the Australian Mining Company. Fresh applications are constantly coming in for allotments of land, of from one to five acres each, and the

township of Tungkillo (the seat of the company's works) is increasing in extent. Schools have been established, and nothing can be more gratifying than the rapid progress which the children are making—both in the ordinary branches of education and in religious instruction. The lord bishop has arranged for a monthly visit to Tungkillo, by a clergyman, and a Wesleyan minister also attends once a month regularly. By subscriptions among the people, a useful Sunday-school library has been established. The miners' library, liberally provided by the directors, has proved very acceptable, and is calculated to have very beneficial results; the subscribers voluntarily pay one shilling a month towards the expenses of the institution, and one shilling entrance.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

Several letters, addressed to the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, have been recently received at the office of the *Female Emigrant Fund*, in reply to communications made to the colonies soon after the institution had commenced its operations. The accounts from the Cape colony are particularly encouraging; and the committee have decided on the immediate selection of fifty young women for emigration thither; and it is intended that thay shall be despatched on or about the 15th of next month. Governor Sir Harry Smith and Dr. Gray, the Bishop of Cape Town, have manifested extreme interest in the operations of the committee. The Bishop writes as follows, under date April 25th:—"The class of persons in whom you are interested is one which is much needed in this colony. I have no hesitation in saying that a very large number of females of good character, who would take the situations of household servants, at wages at least equal to what you give in England, would in a few weeks be absorbed. We shall be quite prepared to employ as many as you are likely to be able to send us, and I am sure that if they come as you propose, not more than thirty at a time, with characters (which should be sent with them, and addressed to me), they will all be engaged within a day or two of their arrival.

The communications from *New South Wales* are of an equally cheering character, as will be seen by the subjoined extract. Dr. Broughton, the Bishop of Sidney, writes, on the 6th of May:—"The following observations are founded on data supplied by an analytical view of the census of New South Wales for 1846, the last which has been taken under legislative sanction. The total population of New South Wales, including Port Philip and the crews of colonial vessels, was then shown to be (in round numbers) 189,000; viz., males 114,000, females 75,000. The proportion of females born in the colony was 14 per cent beyond that of males. The arrival of female emigrants during the year 1849 has exceeded that of males by nearly 18 per cent. Supposing such causes to have been in operation during 1847, 8, 9, (since the census was made up), the ratio of the sexes at the present time may be as females 5, males 7, instead of 5—8, as in 1846. Still, therefore, there is an alarming disproportion; and it must be the prayer of every friend of virtue and morality, that this inroad upon the appointment of the Almighty may not be continued. I see every probability that within the limits of the settled counties, several hundreds of women acquainted with household work, if they were of unblemished characters, would readily find engagement in respectable places, where they would be well maintained and attended to until they should dispose of themselves more to their advantage.

Information has also been received of the arrival at *Toronto*, under the care of Mr. A'Court, of those emigrants who were sent out to Canada in the Elspeth, and, further, that they had all obtained places within a week:—and intelligence has arrived from Port Philip, stating that the Culloden, the first ship despatched to that quarter, was hourly expected, and that the colonists were ready and anxious to receive her emigrants.

The Slanes Castle, the first ship sent out by the *Family Colonisation Society*, founded by Mrs. Chisholm, sailed on the 30th of September, from Gravesend for Australia.

The *Emigration* from the Western and Southern parts of Ireland, goes on without abatement. This month two vessels have sailed from Galway for New York, each carrying nearly 250 possingers, many of them belonging to the better class of farmers. The Tipperary Free Press thus speaks of the flight from the southern district:—"The tide of emigration from this unfortunate land to the colonies and the United States is swelling beyond measure. No conception can be formed of it by the vast number of families which pass through both town and country *en route* to Waterford, &c., day after day, as the great emigration movements principally take place by night! On Wednesday night the watchman on duty in this town counted no less than 54 horses and carts laden with living souls and baggage, all destined for a foreign land; and when so many have passed through Clonmel in one night only, what estimation can be made of those who have travelled for the same purpose through the various highways leading to the ports which branch off at some distance from this town?"

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE position of parties in France is unchanged. The month has been filled with the intrigues and counter-intrigues of the minister-at-war and the commander-in-chief, and with Louis Napoleon's attempts upon the army by means of chickens and champagne. But the end of the month leaves matters much as they were at its beginning; except that at last the poor President is fain to announce, officially, his intention to remain perfectly quiet and attempt no *coup d'état*, but to wait in patience for such fortune as the Assembly may choose to provide for him.

Of German affairs in their present state it is hardly possible to speak, so as to render what is said in the remotest degree intelligible. But the still lingering Schleswig-Holstein dispute has furnished excuse for an insolent threat on the part of Russia and France which may yet unite Germany and strengthen Prussia, in spite of her poor imbecile king; and the gallant people of the little Electorate of Hesse Cassel maintain still their attitude of calm resistance, in spite of the open bullying of declared foes and the timid hesitation of cowardly friends. Time must bring forth the rest.

California is added to the American Union, and the opponents of slavery exult in another free state. But their richer harvest of triumph is arrived, as we predicted that it would, in the agitation against the Fugitive Slave Act. North and South, East and West, the abolitionists are now more active, resolute, and powerful than ever. Even the advocates of the law do not fail to perceive this, and already coolly declare themselves prepared for "an agitation of a most fearful, revolutionary, and bloodthirsty character." Sooner or later we believe that it *will* be all this. But have the more prudent class of American Statesmen considered it in that light, or prepared themselves sufficiently for the very possible, and perhaps not very distant result?

News from China comes over so high a wall, that it never comes but imperfectly. There is a pretty well authenticated rumour, however, of rebellious doings in the south; and that the insurgents, led on by a new aspirant to the Empire, have worsted the regular troops in more than one engagement. An usurper generally makes so excellent a prince that it may possibly be for the interest of us all to wish success to the rebel.

The President of the French Republic has lately been busy with great *Reviews and other Military Pageants*, entertaining the officers with handsome collations and abundance of champagne, and the soldiers with liberal distributions of rations. One of these took place on the 3rd, when the President reviewed a great body of troops on the Plaine de Satory near Versailles. He was accompanied by the Minister of War, and by General Roguet, his aide-de-camp. General Changarnier left Paris an hour before the President. Though entitled to take the command he did not do so, General Neumayer acting in his room. After the review the President gave a collation to the officers and non-commissioned officers, and ordered 13,000 rations to be distributed to the soldiers. The President joined the collation given to the general officers, but General Changarnier declined being present, and returned to Paris, when the other general officers adjourned to the *déjeûner*. The frequency of these reviews, the manner in which the troops were *fêtés* by the President, the manifestations made by the soldiers, and the rumour that a difference of opinion existed between the President and General Changarnier on the subject, led to an extraordinary meeting of the Commission of Permanence. The Minister of War, General Hautpoul, having been called on to explain the circumstances with reference to the late reviews, replied that he wished to inform the commission that he held no command from the Assembly, and that consequently, he could deny the right of the commission to put any questions to him. He, however, waved these objections; and in reply to the question, said that the accounts published in the papers respecting the reviews were grossly exaggerated; and that nothing whatever had occurred there of an unconstitutional or an unmilitary character. The commission heard the General's explanation in perfect silence; nor did any discussion whatever take place. The Minister further observed that it would be impossible to publish an order of the day preventing the soldiers from expressing their feelings of attachment and respect to the chief of the State, and if it were possible he would not do so. With respect to the review that was to take place on the following Thursday, he pledged himself for the maintenance of the most complete tranquillity on that occasion. When the commission was about to separate, the president again addressed the Minister of War, and said, "General Hautpoul, I am desired by the committee to apprise you that in case General Changarnier be removed from his command, or that any other steps be taken against him, we are determined to convoke, forthwith, the Legislative Assembly." To this the Minister made no reply, and the commission adjourned. On Thursday the 10th, the review referred to by the Minister of War, took place on the Plaine de Satory. There were 25,000 troops, chiefly cavalry. The President was accompanied by General Hautpoul, the Minister of War, and several other general officers, besides his usual brilliant staff. On his way from the Palace of Versailles to the plain of Satory, the streets through which he passed were densely crowded, and he was loudly cheered by the people; but the greatest portion of the cries were "Vive le President!" with only a slight sprinkling of cries of "Vive Napoleon!" and "Vive la Republique!" General Changarnier was on the ground about half an hour before the arrival of the President. When the defiling of the troops in front of the President took place, the infantry passed without uttering a single cry. The cavalry followed, the van being led by the carabineers. The whole of the first regiment of carabineers, in passing the President, cheered with immense enthusiasm, and a great majority of them cried "Vive l'Empereur!" "Vive Napoleon!" The three other regiments of carabineers also cheered, but not with so much enthusiasm as the first. There were, however, a considerable number of cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" The regiments which followed were two fine regiments of heavy dragoons. They passed without uttering a single cry, although the colonel of one of them encouraged his men by crying "Vive l'Empereur!" at the pitch of his voice. In the light cavalry regiments there was very little cheering, and the only cry uttered was "Vive Napoleon!" "Vive le President!" After the troops had defiled, the usual refreshments were served out to them, and the President, accompanied by his staff, paid a visit to the camp, but General Changarnier left the ground.

The *Proces-verbal* of the meeting of the Council of Permanence, held on the 12th, drawn up by M. Dupin to the President, was to the following effect:—The violation of the promises made by the Minister of War, and the unconstitutional manifestations, provoked [or tolerated, are severely blamed. The committee did not think proper to invite the Minister of War to give further explanations. Deploring the incidents of the review, it still expressed complete confidence in the loyalty of the army, and is satisfied that the cries were not spontaneous on the part of the soldiers, but instigated by certain officers. In order to avoid alarming the country in the absence of imminent peril, it has not deemed proper to convoke the Assembly; but it deeply disapproves reviews so frequent, into which habits altogether unusual and foreign to military traditions have been so boldly introduced.

As a sequel to these disputes, General Hautpoul has found it necessary to resign his place in the government, and has gone to Algeria as Governor of that colony. He is succeeded as Minister of War by General Schramm. General Changarnier has forbidden all Buonapartist papers to be admitted into the barracks, and among others the *Pays*, a paper which was exclusively directed to the troops, and which was the most zealous advocate for the restoration of the Empire.

The government having lately received intelligence that *A Clandestine Manufactory of Gunpowder* on an extensive scale existed at Ponzin, in the department of the Ardeche, in the house of a man named Soubeyran, who was remarkable for much energy of character and desperate courage, an expedition was planned to capture him, and seize the gunpowder. A strong detachment of horse-artillery and four companies of the line, left Valence under the commandant of the place. At five in the morning they arrived at Soubeyran's door, and summoned him to come forth and surrender himself. No answer was made; a noise was heard inside as of the loading of a gun, and the ringing of a steel ramrod in the barrel. After some minutes, and when the Prefect was about to repeat his summons, the door was suddenly flung open, and Soubeyran, in his shirt-sleeves, a red silk handkerchief twisted round his head, his throat bare, and with sandals on his feet, presented himself before them. One hand grasped a blunderbuss, the other was extended forward. He evidently did not expect to see so many prepared to prevent his escape, and his surprise made him hesitate a moment. The Prefect rushed at him, seized with one hand the arm which held the blunderbuss, and with the other put a pistol to his temples, again summoning him to surrender. The soldiers were advancing, when Soubeyran by a sudden and violent movement freed himself from the grasp which held him, leaped over a table and some chairs, burst through a door, reached a window which hung over the water, and bursting through it, dashed into the Rhône and disappeared amidst its waves. The troops who were stationed outside ran at once to the bridge, and twenty or thirty of the horsemen were in a moment on the opposite side, while others lined the near bank. Once or twice the end of the red handkerchief which bound the outlaw's head was seen in the uncertain light of daybreak on the surface of the water; but Soubeyran himself was never seen more. The troops watched long on both banks of the river, expecting in vain to see him attempt to land—it was all useless. It is not known whether he perished in the dangerous current that shoots between the arches of the bridge, or whether he was able, by swimming for a considerable time under water, to find shelter in the hollow of the rocks that in that part hang over the stream; at all events, dead or alive, he has not since been heard of.

The *Queen of the Belgians died* on the morning of Friday, the 11th. She had laboured for two years under an affection of the lungs and a tendency to dropsical consumption, and grief for her father's death appears to have aggravated her complaints, and led to their fatal termination. She died with pious resignation, and though in extreme pain, was able to console her afflicted husband.

She was in her 39th year, having been born at Palermo, on the 3rd of April, 1812. She was married to Leopold, King of the Belgians, on the 11th of August, 1832; and has constantly enjoyed, in the highest degree, the love and respect of her adopted nation. The deceased Queen has left behind her three children, of ages varying from eleven to sixteen. They are the Duke of Brabant, the Count de Flandres, and the Princess Charlotte; one child died in early infancy. The loss of the Queen will be the more severely felt, as the education of the royal children was under her own superintendence. The visits of the Queen of the Belgians to this country were frequent, and her virtues much endeared her to our Queen Victoria.

The war between *Denmark and the Duchies* is bloody and disastrous. The army of Schleswig-Holstein has made several attempts to take the city of Friedrichstadt by storm, none of which have been successful, and the losses sustained by General Willisen have been considerable, particularly in officers. After bombarding part of the town during the whole of the 4th inst., the town was in the evening attacked by two battalions of infantry and a detachment of riflemen. After a desperate struggle, in which both sides must have suffered very heavy losses, the Danes gave way a little, but only to seek the cover of new entrenchments and barricades thrown up in the middle of the town. The resistance which they met with here was so violent and determined, that notwithstanding the most brilliant bravery, the Schleswig-Holsteiners were compelled to retire at midnight. They took up a new position somewhat in advance of the old, and the conflict was renewed on the following morning, but with no better success. The troops advanced in three columns, and the Danes opened a severe fire along their whole line of defences. Before coming to close quarters the captain of the 6th battalion fell, mortally wounded, and the men he commanded were driven out of a small entrenchment they had taken possession of. The 15th battalion was thrown into disorder and retreated, their ammunition-car having exploded and caused great havoc. It received no support from any other troops, in consequence of a bridge between the Chaussée and the Blockhaus having fallen in. A retreat was sounded on perceiving new lines of defence not previously known of. The fighting continued till near midnight. Sixteen officers out of twenty belonging to the 5th battalion were slain. General Christiansen covered the retreat with his battery, while the flames of the burning city cast a ghastly light upon the retiring troops. After the failure of this desperate assault, General Willisen withdrew his troops from before Friedrichstadt. The heavy guns were taken back to Rendsburg, and the two armies were again in the same position they occupied before the 29th of September; the only result having been the almost total destruction of the unfortunate town, and the loss of many brave men on both sides.

A frightful calamity has occurred at the place of pilgrimage called Herrgott, in *Austria*. At one of the public-houses the pilgrims (of whom 3,000 were assembled at Herrgott) were spending the night in eating and drinking. While baking the fish the oven took fire. Behind the inn were a number of stables and barns, in which hundreds of the pilgrims were reposing, and almost all perished in the flames, which rose so rapidly through the thatched roofs, fanned by a strong wind, that there was no possibility of raising ladders to attempt to rescue a single person. Many threw themselves from the lofts, and, with broken limbs, half consumed with fire, flew hither and thither with the most piteous cries. Scarcely half of the pilgrims were saved, and those who survived have for the most part been much injured.

From *Poland* there is a singular account of a forest on fire. Near Cracow, adjoining the line of railway, there is a large peat ground, part of which runs below an immense forest. About the middle of last month some sparks from a locomotive engine were blown in that direction, and fell on the peat, the surface of which had been dried by the heat of the weather. A few days after, the ground in the forest was found to be very warm, and some rumbling and crackling noises were heard. Several large trees fell as if cut down by an axe, and the leaves of others withered. As it was naturally considered that a subterranean fire must be burning under the forest, the officers charged with the inspection of it caused large trenches to be cut. This conjecture turned out to be well-founded, for the fire soon afterwards burst forth, and still continued its ravages. The forest presented the appearance of a vast sea of flame, which was every day extending. The country round to the extent of six leagues was perfectly illuminated, and it has been found impossible to stop the progress of the fire.

The crisis in the affairs of *Electoral Hesse* continues, and the accounts of the present state of things are confused and contradictory. The Elector remains with his minister Hassenpflug, at Wilhelmsbad, his provincial seat of government, while the people of Cassel persist in their opposition to his measures. There have been signs of indecision on his part, and at one time he was said to have even contemplated abdication. There were also some expectations of his dismissing his obnoxious ministers and consenting to the formation of a more popular government. With this view, it was understood, he sent for M. Elwers, a high judicial functionary of liberal tendencies, who, it was hoped, would be instrumental in forming a new cabinet; but this hope was disappointed, and M. Elwers had returned to Cassel. Dr. Oetker, the editor of a liberal journal, had been arrested by order of Haynau, and the Upper Court of Cassel had summoned the commandant of the city to effect his liberation, but at the last accounts he still remained in prison. The officers of the garrison had remonstrated with Haynau upon his proceedings, and had received for answer that he was determined to persist in his course. On this, to the number of two hundred, they had tendered their resignations, which were transmitted by Haynau to the Elector, but his decision on the subject had not been received. There is much uncertainty, too, about the views of Austria and Prussia in regard to the affairs of Hesse Cassel. Very recent intelligence was to the effect that these two powers had come to an understanding that Hassenpflug should be dismissed from his office of minister; and that any military intervention in Hesse, if necessary, would be by Prussia and Austria jointly. According to the last accounts from Cassel, however, an invasion of Austrian and Bavarian troops was daily expected, for the purpose of supporting the Elector against his subjects.

The opening of the States-General of the *Netherlands* took place at the Hague on the 7th, by the King in person. The speech from the throne announced that the relations of the country with all foreign powers were satisfactory, and that as regarded the Duchy of Limburg, the difficulties which had arisen from the convulsed state of Germany were in course of arrangement by such negotiations as would best suit the interest and honour of the Low Countries. Trade was described as prosperous, and flattering hopes were put forth as to the future effects of the new navigation laws. The financial situation was satisfactory; the expected excess would cover the deficiencies left by the preceding year.

At a secret Consistory, held at *Rome* on the 30th of September, the following Cardinals were appointed: Monseigneur Paul Therese David d'Astros, Archbishop of Toulouse; Jean Joseph Bonnel y Orbo, Archbishop of Toledo; Joseph Cosenza, Archbishop of Capua; Jacques Marie Adrien César Mathieu, Archbishop of Besançon; Jude-Joseph Romo, Archbishop of Seville; Thomas Gousset, Archbishop of Rheims; Maximilian-Joseph Godefroi, Archbishop of Olmutz in Moravia; Jean Geissel, Archbishop of Cologne; Peter Paul de Figueredo de Cunha e Mello, Archbishop of Braga in Portugal; Nicolas Wiseman, Archbishop of Westminster in England, a metropolitan see recently formed by the Pope; Joseph Pecci, Bishop of Bugio; Melchior de Diepenbrock, Bishop of Breslaw. Cardinal Wiseman is to return to England, to occupy his metropolitan see; and the whole of England has been portioned into Romish Episcopal Sees.

M. Franzoni, Archbishop of Turin, has been sentenced to banishment from the Sardinian territories, and the archiepiscopal possessions forfeited to the Crown. Thirteen judges out of fourteen pronounced the condemnation of M. Franzoni, who was escorted to the frontier on the 30th ult. The arrival of the Archbishop at Briançon, Hautes Alpes, is announced in the French papers. The same course has been pursued with the Archbishop of Cagliari, who had imitated the conduct of Franzoni, and even gone the length of excommunicating the authorities who called him to account. Sentence of banishment was pronounced against him, and he was put on board a steamer and sent to Civita Vecchia. The vacant sees are administered by the state department of the Apostolic Economiat-General.

The Representative Constitution and the Liberty of the Press have been destroyed in *Tuscany*. On the 23d ult. two Decrees were promulgated: the first announced the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies, and declared that till a fresh convocation of the legislature, all power would be exercised by the Grand Duke in the Council of State. The second declared that no journal or periodical should be published without first obtaining the written authorisation of the Minister of the Interior, to whom the names and other circumstances of the director and of the proprietor of the printing establishment are to be communicated.

A *Tragical Occurrence* has taken place at Kruziewis, in the Grand Duchy of Posen. At the commencement of the Russian campaign in Hungary, twelve Circassian noblemen engaged as volunteers in the Russian Circassian regiment, and returned to Warsaw decorated for good conduct. The campaign having terminated, they wished to return home; but they were detained, and placed in the same category as the common Circassians, serving in the army. All their prayers and remonstrances, even to the Emperor himself, remained unheeded. On the 28th September they quitted Warsaw, and passed the frontier cordon, a distance of thirty German miles, next day, after leaving two comrades killed by their pursuers. On the 1st of October, they arrived at Kruziewis, and were conducted by a gendarme before the Landrath. They expressed a wish to be conducted to Berlin, and there disarmed; but the Landrath refused, and expressed his intention of sending them back to Poland. They were then led to the barracks, but nothing could induce them to enter the barrack-yard. The squadron of dragoons quartered at that place received orders to mount and surround them. The moment the dragoons arrived, one of them fired on the Circassians. The Circassians, who were mounted, now galloped out of the town, pursued by the dragoons. One of their horses, already nearly exhausted, fell near the Landrath's office, and a Circassian was shot; so also was the dragoon. A little further on, two more Circassians were killed, and two wounded taken. The remaining five took refuge in a farm-house, after letting loose their horses. They refused to surrender, and prepared for defence. The dragoons seeing this, set fire to the outhouses, and then to the barns and stables, but the house in which the poor men had taken refuge, could not be burned, as they prevented all approach with their rifles. The other buildings burned all night, but the five Circassians still held out. At length infantry was sent for, and during the night of the 1st and 2nd a detachment of forty men arrived from Bromberg. Measures were taken for burning down the house, and they succeeded. Deprived of their last refuge, the Circassians rushed upon their enemies. One of them killed a foot soldier, and was killed himself, pierced with balls. The remainder, pierced with wounds, were at length captured, and brought into Kruziewis on waggons. The barbarous conduct of the Prussian authorities is attempted to be justified by the cartel between Russia and Prussia for the capture and mutual surrender of deserters.

The advices from *New York* come down to the 9th inst. Congress adjourned on the 30th of September, after a long and momentous session. One of its latest measures, the Fugitive Slaves' Act, had come into operation, and was producing great excitement among the coloured population, and large public meetings had been held in New York and other cities, at some of which, resolutions advising resistance to the Government officers were passed. A vast number of fugitive slaves were escaping into the British North American possessions.—It was said to be likely that Frederick Douglas, the well-known anti-slavery lecturer, would be apprehended under the new act, unless he escaped to Canada.

Congress, before its adjournment, passed the Bill to suppress the slave trade in the district of Columbia, which completes the series of measures proposed by Mr. Clay in his "Compromise Bill" for the settlement of the slavery question.—A bill was also passed prohibiting the lash in the naval service, and abolishing the use of ardent spirits, except in the cabin.

Advices from *Texas* of the 20th ult. state that the passage of Pearce's Boundary Bill by the United States Congress had been announced to the legislature, and the indications were that it would be passed. The papers state that the popular feeling was decidedly in favour of accepting the propositions of the United States Congress.

A serious disturbance had taken place at Sacramento city in *California*. A number of "squatters" had occupied and erected buildings on grounds to which, it was contended, other parties had rights. A writ of ejection was obtained against them, but they resisted its execution, and a sanguinary conflict ensued, in which the mayor of the city, and the leader of the squatters, were killed, and a number of persons wounded. A report, that the city had been burnt, proves unfounded.

The American steam-packet, Pacific, as she was leaving New York on the 28th of September, was detained for a day, by a *Calamitous Accident*. As she was passing out of the dock she struck the wharf, broke down a large shed, and injured herself considerably. There were several hundred people under the shed, and the moment the crash commenced a general panic took place. Many persons in their fright jumped overboard into the river. Some were rescued, but two men were crushed to death in a most horrible manner, by the falling beams under the shed.

Jenny Lind had sung at several *Concerts* at New York and Boston, and has been received with an enthusiasm that beggars anything ever witnessed in this country. At both the above places the tickets of admission were sold by auction; at New York, one Genin, a hatter, purchased one seat for 225 dollars; and at Boston a Mr. Dodge, a music-seller, was the buyer of a seat at the price of 625 dollars—125*l.* sterling! This looks like mere madness; but there must be something under it which does not appear.

Advices from the *Sandwich Islands* reach to the 22nd of June, and describe in the highest terms their rapidly increasing prosperity. Liability to desertion continued to cause the visits of whaling ships to be less frequent, but the extraordinary growth of a more permanent commerce in connection with California, and indirectly with Australia, New Zealand, Calcutta, China, and the Indian Seas, rendered this of no account. The Harbour of Honolulu, which at particular seasons used to be entirely deserted, was now at all times a scene of activity from the arrivals and departures of merchantmen, and the construction of additional wharves had become necessary. Many new buildings were in the course of erection, and the cultivation of vegetable produce was stimulated to the utmost by the fact that supplies of all kinds were taken off as fast as they could be raised. To aid the extension of agricultural operations, a public assembly was fixed to be held in Honolulu on the 12th of August, for the purpose of forming an association to collect implements and machinery, plants, and seeds, as well as to promote by periodical exhibitions, improvements in the breeding of live stock, and, if possible, to establish a magazine, which should contain such selections from the standard agricultural publications of Europe and America as might be likely to prove most useful to the members. It was also proposed that the association should give attention to the question of the introduction of Coolie labour from China to supply the places of the rapidly decreasing native population.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE progress and successful conduct of the University Commission is matter of the deepest anxiety to all who feel the questions involved in it to be paramount in importance to almost every other. It has commenced its sittings, but as yet has been occupied exclusively with mere arrangements for taking evidence. Most of the heads of houses who signed the remonstrance against the inquiry, it is now understood, will no longer decline to be examined; but we still hear muttered threats of "violent opposition from the Tractarian members of the board." Happily these bode less than they did. The precipitate descent of the Pope and his bishopries has fluttered the pro-papists in Oxford and elsewhere, and their means of mischief are not at all what they were even so late as ten days ago. The wedge had already been inserted before the hammer of his Holiness was applied. We shall shortly see Doctor Pusey and Mr. Sewell and Mr. Denison at quite harmless fisticuffs in the air.

These three gentlemen aptly represent the present split of the Tractarian schism. Mr. Denison is for denying the Romish supremacy, and creating a supremacy of his own. Doctor Pusey will not deny the Romish supremacy; but, with a resolve as stern and mournful as Mr. John O'Connell's when he contemplated his final struggle on the floor of the house, he promises to die in the bosom of the Church of England. Mr. Sewell is as little for denying as for admitting the supremacy of Rome, but, swaying to either side with the current of his interests and hopes, appears to have simply made up his mind to die in the possession of a good English benefice. Not any of the three will occasion much more trouble. As soon as the choice must be taken, Mr. Denison and Mr. Sewell will be found side by side where the bishops and benefices are; and for the remaining section, the weakest but the most sincere, they will at least have the excuse of Benedict for marrying, that when they promised to die in the bosom of the Church of England, they didn't know that they would live to die in the bosom of the Church of Rome.

The publishers still pause and hesitate on the threshold of the winter season, and there has not been for many years so dull an October in the great publishing houses, east and west.

The most important of the month's scanty publications which we are called to record is that of the first portion of a very able and laborious compilation on *Commercial Law* by Mr. Leone Levi. The object of the entire undertaking, which may well be termed a gigantic one, is to survey the principles and administration of all the various commercial laws of foreign countries, with a view to a direct comparison with the mercantile law of Great Britain. Mr. Levi appears to have been engaged for years, with this object, in correspondence with the merchants of upwards of fifty countries remarkable more or less for distinct and separate commercial usages; and to have obtained in every instance the information he sought. His first volume opens with a sketch of the leading epochs in the history of commerce, and of the existing condition of commercial law in the countries embraced by his scheme. Then, after giving a table of international usages and days of grace now current in all countries, Mr. Levi presents an extraordinary mass of information at once extremely condensed and most lucidly arranged, on the laws of merchants, minors, married females, aliens, books of commerce, and partnership, respectively prevailing in Great Britain (which occupies the post of honour across the top of each page,) and in all the other leading countries (which are duly arranged in parallel and corresponding columns below). Mr. Levi's ultimate object, and one to which intelligent law reformers will earnestly desire success, is the establishment of a national and international code of commerce among all civilised countries, rejecting what is inconvenient or unjust in all, and retaining and codifying what is best in each.

A traveller and literary labourer of the same race as Mr. Levi, the Rev. Moses Margoliouth, a converted Jew, has been employing his time not quite so profitably in writing and publishing long-winded letters descriptive of a *Pilgrimage to the Land of my Fathers*, addressed to all sorts of fine folks here, countesses, bishops, lords, and baronets, who must have had a surprising quantity of patience, and a more than ordinary amount of nothing to do, to be able to read them. It is very doubtful if the public will follow their example. The letters, orations, and other tracts on Italy, which M. Mazzini has just republished with an eloquent and earnest appeal to the English people, in a small volume entitled *Royalty and Republicanism in Italy*, would merit a different kind of mention, if this were the place in which to give it. Suffice it to say that M. Mazzini repels in this book, it seems to us successfully, the charge so often brought against him of having distracted and divided the forces of his native country, at the time when they ought to have been concentrated on the paramount duty of driving out the Austrians.

There is no other original book deserving notice in our present Narrative, but some welcome re-appearances deserve a grateful word. First, and most delightful, is a re-issue of the Spectator's papers of *Sir Roger de Coverley*, now for the first time collected in a single volume, forming a connected narrative of the most fascinating kind, and characteristically illustrated by notes as well as woodcuts. Then we have a re-publication by Mrs. Crowe of some stories of murders, ghosts, and circumstantial evidence, highly pertinent to the time, and entitled *Light and Darkness*. Also we have to note the issue in three goodly volumes of Mr. Robert Bell's English story of the *Ladder of Gold*. And finally there have been new editions (with numerous and important additions in both cases) of Mr. Leitch's excellent translation of Müller's *Ancient Art and its Remains*; and of Dr. Latham's admirable treatise on the *English Language*.

A great quantity of *Assyrian and other Antiquities* have arrived at the British Museum, from Bussorah. Among them are the Great Bull from Nineveh, with a man's head and dragon's wings, weighing twelve tons, and a lion sculptured in the same manner, weighing nine tons. There are also several coffins, containing many curious relics of the manners and usages of Eastern countries regarding the ceremonies observed in burying their dead.

The metropolitan theatres have all opened for the season. Mr. Charles Kean and Mr. Keeley are now the lessees of the Princess's, which they are managing with much success. No new dramatic piece of any importance has been produced at any of the theatres.

A series of "Grand National Concerts" has been commenced at Her Majesty's Theatre, under the direction of a committee of gentlemen. They are promenade concerts, after the manner of Jullien's entertainments at Drury Lane, but on a greater scale, and with a larger infusion of classical music.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of Sept. 27. JOHN THOMAS BRAMELD, Tichborne-street, and Great Windmill-street, Westminster, china dealer.—JAMES HORSFIELD, Wheelock, Cheshire, coal dealer.—WILLIAM KEEPING, East-street, Walworth, common brewer.—EDWARD HAMLIN KIDDLE, Valentine-place, Blackfriars-road, miller.—HENRY LLOYD and THOMAS LLOYD, Carmarthen, drapers.—THOMAS PROBYN, High-Holborn, licensed victualler.—HENRY FRANCIS ROSS, West Cowes, Isle of Wight, and JOHN WYLIE BARROW, Philpot-lane, City, commission and shipping agents.—HENRY WILKINS, High-street, Kensington, draper.

Oct. 1. THOMAS GAMSON, Mark-lane, City, corn and seed factor.—WILLIAM MAYER, Bateman's-Row, Shoreditch, timber merchant.

Oct. 4. THOMAS FIELDING, Rhyl, Flintshire, hotel keeper.—THOMAS HORATIO JOLLEY, Farringdon-street, City, fruit salesman.—GEORGE LITTLE, Holborn-bars, City, and Commercial-pl., Commercial-rd., New Peckham, electrical apparatus maker.

Oct. 8. WILLIAM GRAYSON, Mortlake, Surrey, market gardener.

Oct. 11. WILLIAM GOODE, jun. Monmouth, linen draper.—JAMES HORSFIELD, Wheelock, Cheshire, coal dealer.—BENJAMIN MURRAY, Stockton-upon-Tees, Durham, innkeeper.—JOSEPH WORSEY, and JAMES BIGGS, Aston, Warwickshire, wire manufacturers.

Oct. 15. WILLIAM HENRY BOON, Plymouth, ironmonger.—THOMAS DALBY, Hythe, Kent, builder.—HENRY POOLEY, Wisbeach St. Peter's, Cambridgeshire, carpenter.—THOMAS WESLEY, Newport Pagnel, Buckinghamshire, hotel keeper.

Oct. 18. JONAS CLARK, Soham, Cambridgeshire, dealer in flour.—JAMES FIELDING, Middleton, Lancashire, provision dealer.—WILLIAM FORD, High-Holborn, haberdasher.—CHARLES JONES, Llanfyllin, Monmouthshire, grocer.—WILLIAM PIGGOT, Great Eversden, Cambridgeshire, general shopkeeper.—BENJAMIN TEBBIT, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, draper.

Oct. 22. EDWARD ARMYTAGE, Halifax, and Huddersfield, Yorkshire, cotton spinner.—JOHN INGS, Henley in Arden, Warwickshire, surgeon.—FREDERICK LA MARK, and GEORGE LA MARK, Water-lane, Tower-street, shipbrokers.—JAMES M'MONIES, Liverpool and New York, America, corn merchant.—JAMES STEVENS TRIPP, Lombard-street-chambers, Clement's-lane, City, dealer in railway shares.

Oct. 25. WILLIAM BINDER, Orsett, Essex, builder.—CALEB EVANS, Merthyr Tydvil, Glamorganshire, ironmonger.—GEORGE HALL and FRANCIS SKELTON FELL, Tynemouth, timber merchants.—JOHN RODEN, Stamford, Lincolushire, draper.—ROBERT TURNER, Worthing, Sussex, draper.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

Sept. 24. FREDERICK JOHNSON, Lincoln, watchmaker.

Sept. 27. WILLIAM EDWARD FERGUSSON, Macclesfield, Cheshire, surgeon

Oct. 1. WILLIAM JOHNSON, West Drayton, farmer.

THE STOCK AND SHARE MARKETS.

City, Oct. 28.

During the early part of the month, in consequence of the transfer books of the various descriptions of home securities being shut, Consols were the only stock in which business could be done; but, notwithstanding, the operations were of a very quiet character, and failed to sustain the market, the price receding to 96½, which it marked on the 5th inst. With the commencement of the payment of the dividends, however, an upward movement set in, and the price went rapidly up till the 16th, when Consols were done at 97¾. They then remained pretty steady till the 23rd, when a speculative action to depress prices came in force, and they gradually drooped to their yesterday's quotation, 96⅞ to 97. To-day the market leaves off rather steadier, with Consols quoted at 97⅛ to ¼. Within the last fortnight a very large business has been transacted, not only in Consols, but also in the Reduced 3 per Cents., the New 3¼ per Cents., and the other stocks which have recently opened.

The Railway Share Market on the whole has been good this month, and characterised by a strong tendency to improvement, as will be seen upon an inspection of the extreme prices given below. Very extensive purchases were made in nearly all the railway stocks during all the first half of the month; and though the tone of the market of late has been slightly depressed, this is generally regarded as arising from causes which are easy of explanation, and of a merely temporary character.

STOCKS.

	Prices during the Month.		
	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols	97¾	96½	97¼
Three per Cent. Reduced	97	96	96¼
Three and a quarter per Cents.	99¼	98	98
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860	7⅞	7¾	7 13/16
Bank Stock	212	209	211½
India Stock	270	265	270
South Sea Stock	108	107¾	108
Exchequer Bills	71*s.* prm.	63*s.* prm	66*s.* prm.
India Bonds	91*s.* prm.	83*s.* prm.	86*s.* prm.

RAILWAYS.

Paid.		Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
100	Bristol and Exeter	70	68½	69
50	Caledonian	8⅝	8⅛	8¼
20	Eastern Counties	6¾	6	6¼
24	Great Northern	14⅝	13½	13⅞
100	Great N. of England	243½	242¼	243½
100	Great Western	73	69½	70
50	Hull and Selby	97½	95	97½
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	50¾	47¼	48
50	Leeds and Bradford	95¾	92¾	95¾
100	London and Brighton	85	83	84
100	London and North Western	118¾	115	117½
100	London and S. Western	70½	67½	68½
100	Midland	45½	42	42
17½	North Staffordshire	7⅞	7	7⅛
30	South Eastern	21½	19⅞	20¼
25	York, Newcastle, and Berwick	18⅞	16¼	17⅛
50	York and North Midland	26½	20⅝	23⅛

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Oct. 26.

The tendency of the prices of home-grown wheat has been slightly declining during the month, the supplies from the country being of a fair amount, and millers purchasing with extreme caution, so as only to meet immediate wants. Where sales have to be made, a slight concession is generally obliged to be yielded. The London averages (announced last night), which are given below, show a reduction of full 3*s.* per quarter in wheat, as compared with those published in our last monthly notice. Foreign grain has generally been held more firmly :—

Wheat, per quarter, 42*s.* 8*d.*
Barley, 26*s.* 4*d.*
Oats, 17*s.* 2*d.*
Rye, 25*s.* 7*d.*
Beans, 28*s.* 8*d.*
Peas, 32*s.* 11*d.*

Flour, Town made, delivered, per 280 lbs., 37*s.* to 40*s.*
„ Norfolk and Suffolk, 29*s.* to 32*s.*
„ American and Canadian, per barrel, of 196 lbs., 22*s.* to 25*s.*

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt. — Waterford heavy, 38*s.* to 42*s.*; Belfast, 42*s.* to 50*s.*; Hamburg, 47*s.* to 49*s.*
Beef, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.*
Butter, per cwt., Carlow, 80*s.* to 84*s.*; Cork, 80*s.* to 81*s.*; Limerick, 74*s.* to 77*s.*; Dorset, 56*s.* to 82*s.*; Friesland, 70*s.* to 88*s.*; Fresh, 9*s.* to 11*s.* per 12 lbs.
Cheese, per cwt., new Cheshire, 42*s.* to 60*s.*; old Derby 44*s.* to 54*s.*; new Wiltshire dbl. 44*s.* to 54*s.*; Gouda, 31*s.* to 36*s.*; American, 40*s.* to 42*s.*
Eggs, English, per 120, 5*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.*; Scotch, 4*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 9*d.*; French, 4*s.* to 5*s.* 6*d.*
Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 60*s.* to 70*s.* 6*d.*; Irish, 46*s.* to 70*s.*; Westphalia, 46*s.* to 50*s.*; American, 40*s.* to 44*s.*
Mutton, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 8*d.*
Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Shaws, 55*s.* to 65*s.*; Kent and Essex Regents, 60*s.* to 85*s.*; Middling Ware, 35*s.* to 45: Chats, 25*s.* to 32*s.*; Yorkshire Regents, 70*s.* to 80*s.*
Pork, per 8 lbs., large, 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; small, 3*s.* 10*d.* to 4*s.* 4*d.*
Veal, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 8*d.*

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt.—Trinidad, 42*s.* to 50*s.*; Grenada 39*s.* to 47*s.* Bahia, 28*s.* to 29*s.*
Coffee, per cwt.—Good ord. Ceylon, 57*s.* to 58*s.*; fine ord. Jamaica, 48*s.* to 49*s.* 6*d.*; good and fine ord. Mocha, 55*s.* to 61*s.*; Bahia, 43*s.* to 57*s.*
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal white, 8*s.* 6*d.* to 12*s.* 6*d.*; Madras, 8*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.*; E. I. Patna, 10*s.* to 20*s.*; Carolina 20*s.*
Sago, per cwt.—Pearl, 19*s.* to 24*s.*
Sugar, per cwt.—Grocery lumps, 50*s.* to 52.; good brown Jamaica, 36*s.* 6*d.* to 37*s.* 6*d.*; ditto fine yellow, 42*s.* to 43.; Mauritius yellow, 35*s.* to 39*s.*; Brazil brown, 32*s.* to 36*s.* 6*d.*
Tea, per lb. (duty 2*s.* 1*d.*),—Com. Congou, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 0½*d.*; Souchong, ord. and mid. 10*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*; mid. and good Hyson, 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.*; Imperial, 1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*

Candles, per 12 lbs., 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*; Coals, per ton, Wallsend, 14*s.* 9*d.* to 16*s.* 9*d.*

OILS.

Pale Seal, per ton, 40*l.*
Sperm, 84*l.* to 86*l.*
Cod's, 38*l.*
Olive, Gallipoli, per 252 gals. 45*l.*
Pale rape, per cwt. 38*s.*
Linseed, 32*s.* 6*d.*

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THE

HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE

OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1850.] FROM THE 29TH OCTOBER TO THE 28TH NOVEMBER. [PRICE 2*d*.

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

IT is remarked by Mr. Macaulay that the trial of the seven bishops was the first and last occasion on which two feelings of tremendous potency, which have generally been opposed to each other, and either of which, when strongly excited, has sufficed to convulse the state, were united in perfect harmony. Those feelings were love of the church and love of freedom. The fact is pregnant with significance, that the two should have been combined so rarely; and that as surely as church manifestations have in general led to results unfavourable to civil liberty, so has the outbreak for liberty as commonly brought about limitations of the power of the prelacy and priesthood. Whether love of the church or love of freedom be predominant at present, or whether the second instance of their combination be arrived in our English history, results will have to determine. One thing only is certain at present. Of the strength and intensity of the agitation which shakes the kingdom from end to end, there can be no doubt whatever. It occupies every class and sect to the absolute exclusion of every other interest or subject. The excitement is now in its third stage. The first was that of the Papal Bull; the second, that of the Pastoral Letter; the third, the attempted defence to both in the Appeal to the English People. The Appeal seemed at first a sort of bathos after the Bull and the Letter; but the affected humility of the one, and the declared arrogance of the others, meant precisely the same thing, and the last has but served therefore, after brief consideration, as fuel to the other two.

The Papal Bull of the 29th September declared not simply that a Romish hierarchy was re-established in England, but that all constitutions, privileges, and customs of the church in England were abolished, whatever their antiquity, and the new bishops invested with full episcopal power. There was no disguise about this document. It created twelve new bishopries, dividing the island into corresponding dioceses. It assigned an archbishop to Westminster, a bishop of Southwark to the two divisions of the metropolis and the adjoining counties, and a bishop of Beverley to Yorkshire. It divided Lancashire between the sees of Liverpool and Salford; and Wales, between Salop and Merthyr-Tydvil cum Newport. It erected bishopries of Clifton and Plymouth in the west of England, each comprising three counties; in the midland district, it raised two episcopal sees of Nottingham and Birmingham; and these it flanked by that of Northampton in the east. Nor had the general amazement at the act yet subsided into a clear comprehension of all the insolence comprised in it, when forth came a Pastoral Letter from "Nicholas, by the Divine mercy, of the holy Roman Church by the title of St. Pudentiana, Cardinal Priest, Archbishop of Westminster, and Administrator apostolic of the diocese of Southwark," addressed "to our dearly beloved in Christ, the clergy, secular and regular, and the faithful of all the said archdiocese and diocese." In this letter the faithful were ordered to offer up a thanksgiving that "the great work is complete, and your beloved country has received a place among the fair churches which form the splendid aggregate of Catholic communion, and has been restored to its orbit in the ecclesiastical firmament from which its light had long vanished, and begins anew its course of regularly adjusted action round the centre of unity, the source of jurisdiction, of light, and of vigour." The saints of England, "whether Roman or British, Saxon or Norman," were invoked to "look down from their seats of bliss with beaming-glance upon this new evidence of the faith and the church which led them to glory;" and were invited to behold, from their habitations of joy, "the lamp of the temple again enkindled and rebrightening, and the silver links of that chain which has connected their country with the See of Peter in its vicarial government changed into burnished gold, not stronger nor more closely knit, but more beautifully wrought and more brightly arrayed!" Then there was added to this infinite rubbish about the raiments of chains, a quite equal amount concerning his own dignity, and his cardinal's hat, and his red stockings, and his archiepiscopal pallium, and his title derived from "the church of St. Pudentiana, in which St. Peter is groundedly believed to have enjoyed the hospitality of the noble and partly British family of the Senator Pudens" (about which there has of course been a letter to the *Times* suggesting St. Impudentiana as the more accurate title). But finally, in the midst of all this ridiculous arrogance, it was not forgotten expressly to announce that "until such time as the Holy See shall think fit otherwise to provide, WE GOVERN, and shall continue to govern, *the counties of* Middlesex, Hertford, and Essex *as ordinary thereof*"—without the least reservation of the pretended authority to the Roman Catholic inhabitants of those counties, or any recognition of the positive authority of the ordinary of the diocese. The decency of such a reservation never seems to have occurred to his Eminence, till a cry of indignation and disgust, from one end of England to the other, somewhat rudely aroused him from his exulting dreams as Cardinal Archbishop to his less gorgeous position as Nicholas Wiseman. Then came forth his Appeal, no longer treating us as if, since the days of the Reformation, we had been savage or barbarian, but to all appearance recognising us for rational folk, appealing to us in the name of religious liberty, demanding full completion of the Emancipation Act, and remonstrating with us for denying to a section of our fellow christians what he had thought it our pride and boast freely to extend to all. At least this Appeal is an argument purporting to be addressed to the reason, and inviting fair examination.

Stripping it, then, of its uneasily assumed humility, and paying no heed to the bitter sneers and bursting

hate which that assumption so scantly veils, the argument contained in it is briefly this, that its author, the Cardinal Archbishop, comes after all merely as a dissenting minister, the head of a voluntary association, to take the management of the spiritual affairs of the Catholics, and to assume nothing that a Wesleyan or Baptist might not claim. But do the Wesleyan and Baptist reject every other christian? Do they treat as non-existent whatever exists not within their pale? Do they refuse to see anything in the land but their own chapels, or to acknowledge a fellow citizen that is not subject to their Conference? Do they think it seemly or right to insult a great nation in the very name of its greatest act of religious freedom, to trample on its generous tolerance, to ignore its noble struggles, and for its good return evil, for its charity contumely? There is no Protestant in England desiring with all his heart to live in peace with his Catholic fellow subject, and to know him only as a fellow countryman, who does not from the very strength of that feeling spurn and resist an aggression of which the manifest claim is to apply the rights of freedom to the uses of tyranny, and convert an act of justice into a means of domination. Let us not be ashamed of arguments in behalf of justice to the Romanists simply because we see them Jesuitically quoted to palliate Romanist encroachment. It was quite within the power of the Pope to have provided for the spiritual government of the English branch of his church without offence or insult. He was not called on to assume that the entire country had just been rescued from heathenism and restored to the supremacy of the Papal hierarchy. He needed not to have swept away the whole Protestant population to make room for the hierarchy of something less than a million of his fellow-believers. He needed not to have revelled in the anticipated fall of our national faith by way of exalting and aggrandising his own. One of the most intelligent and liberal Roman Catholics in England, Lord Beaumont, has put the case unanswerably. "To send a bishop to Beverley for the spiritual direction of the Roman Catholic clergy in Yorkshire," he remarks, "and to create a see of Beverley, are two very different things: the one is allowed by the tolerant laws of the country; the other requires territorial dominion and sovereign power within the country. If you deny that this country is a fief of Rome, and that the Pontiff has any dominion over it, you deny his power to create a territorial see, and you condemn the late bull as 'sound and fury signifying nothing.' If, on the contrary, you admit his power to raise Westminster into an archbishopric and Beverley into a bishopric, you make over to the Pope a power which, according to the constitution, rests solely with the Queen and her Parliament, and thereby infringe the prerogative of the one and interfere with the authority of the other." Nothing could more tersely express the dilemma in which the Papal aggression has placed the honest English Catholic. It is manifest to him, as to every other rational person, that for all due purposes of internal government in regard to the Roman Catholic ministry, the vicar-apostolic, or the bishop with a title from his flock, was enough; but for purposes of spiritual government and domination, the territorial and purple prelate, with his retinue of synods, dioceses, and indefinite powers, was needed; the entire Canon Law must be inflicted upon us, even at the cost of the Queen's prerogative; and not alone the Roman Catholic community, subject to spiritual penalties and pains for temporal fidelity, but we, the unenthralled and free community of Protestants, are expected to submit to the infliction. The English people say they will *not* submit, and who can blame them? Who can therefore charge them with bigotry or injustice? It is no violence to the principles of toleration that a creed, to which not only liberty of conscience is yielded, but also all reasonable means of promoting and propagating itself, should be denied such privileges of external action as are utterly inconsistent with the rights of other beliefs. The very territorial titles assumed, the claim of a disposal of the soil, the assumption to govern England by provinces and dioceses with local titles and unlimited jurisdiction, constitute a temporal pretension to which the rules of temporal government apply. Nothing of all this was required to meet merely the spiritual wants of the Roman Catholic population. Nothing of it was implied in the compact with our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens at the period of the Emancipation Act. Rome, says the authorised organ of Roman Catholic opinion, "has more than spoken. She has spoken and acted. She has again divided our land into dioceses, and has placed over each a pastor, to whom all baptised persons, without exception, within that district, are openly commanded to submit themselves in all ecclesiastical matters, under pain of damnation; and the Anglican sees, those ghosts of realities long since passed away, are utterly ignored." Was this the meaning of the compact of 1829? Is it within the limits of any kind of allowable toleration, that a paramount spiritual authority derived solely from a foreign prince should be permitted, even in name, to lord itself over the crown and constitution of England? Why, it is a claim at this day rejected in every Roman Catholic country with the smallest title to independence; and ought it to be suffered in a country emphatically Protestant? There is a Gallican Church in France; there is a Catholic Church in Prussia, where education is free, and where prelates cannot be chosen without the sanction of the sovereign; but, according to Cardinal Wiseman, there can be no such thing in England. The assertion is a disingenuous artifice; nor is there anything more worthy of remark in the Appeal than the manner in which important points of this nature are slurred, and others elaborately dwelt upon which no one is disposed to call in question.

It is not the denial of the Queen's spiritual supremacy, nor is it even the creation of a hierarchy (supposing a case of necessity made out for it), which we would refuse to the Roman Catholic. The Emancipation Act may have led to both, as it certainly did to one. But in conceding to the Catholics what we believe to be theirs, it did not surrender to them what we know to be our own. It warranted nothing offensive or aggressive. It may have been simply an act of justice on the part of the State to extend frank recognition to the Roman Catholic people; but after such an act the State should not have been ignored by the class it had just raised and strengthened. Let the relative numbers of Catholic and Protestant in England be compared; and the propriety of demanding for the minority an organisation co-extensive with the wants of all, will be brought to a simple test. The insolence of the act did not even stop short, however, at that monstrous inaptitude of means and ends. The vast majority of the nation has been treated as absolutely non-existing, and authority over all baptised souls conferred without misgiving, as if the Roman Catholic church were again predominant, and the privileges of Christianity denied to souls not baptised within its pale. The question which arises upon this is a somewhat serious one. The most ardent friends of freedom have to ask whether any sort of concession, directly leading to such encroachment, should have place in a scheme of religious liberty. A State which has to care for the rights of many denominations, can have no title to make concessions incompatible with the rights of any; or a perfect Roman Catholic freedom might include a perfect Protestant subjection. If simply the claims of conscience were in question, the

course would not be difficult to take; but it is not so; and the pretence that would make it so is notoriously false. Cardinal Wiseman's Appeal proceeds wholly on the separability of the spiritual from the temporal authority of Rome; and every one who has read history knows that they are *inseparable*. The one has always proceeded in direct sequence from the other, just as the temporal persecutions of the Roman church have been but the natural expression of her spiritual infallibility. An absolute right to Persecute only ceases when a church no longer claims an absolute right to Know. This is what the Cardinal means by his sneer at the absence of "clear, definite, and accordant teaching" from the English establishment; and this is what now suggests to all men the necessity of defining the amount of religious concession which shall not be allowed to frustrate the ends of temporal legislation. It would have been thought intolerable in England, even six centuries ago, that the country should have been mapped out into ecclesiastical districts, and subjected to ecclesiastical governors, by the sole voice of a foreign potentate; and most certainly the Emancipation Act of the nineteenth century did not contemplate any such thing. So far, the existence of Roman Catholicism is quite distinct from the uses and powers which the toleration of its existence is now sought to subserve. Nor can we admit that the clause by which the authors of the Emancipation Act expressly prohibited Romanist prelates from assuming the titles of sees of the Established Church, is by any means an argument for the assumption of titles from places contained within those sees, and the pretence to authority over them. Even if the law shall declare that the letter of the Emancipation Act has in that respect been kept, most assuredly its spirit has been violated.

But wonderful is the coolness with which the Cardinal throughout his Appeal treats the records of times past, as well as of our own. We have but to listen to him, and believe that wherever a religious house existed in old Roman Catholic days, a paradise of comfort and happiness spread itself around, taking and giving blessings. A pretty picture! and a pity that any rude hand should deface it! But did it never occur to his Eminence that some one might have time and patience to call History itself into court? Here it is, within reach, and in tones undistorted by prejudice or faction. We have but to open, no particular or party record, but the statute book of the reign preceding that of the Reformation—while Luther was still but a poor Franciscan school-boy at Magdeburg, singing songs in the street for bread—to find what a crying evil and grossness the lives of the Romish clergy had become. In one enactment, passed by our English parliament, it is expressly declared to be lawful for bishops and other ordinaries to punish priests, clerks, and religious men for incontinence; for which offence, so flagrant and unceasing its occurrence, they might commit them to prison at discretion, and should be liable to no action for so doing. Nay, in the reign preceding, some ten years before the accession of Henry VII., we have the direct authority of a great dignitary of the Roman Church for the profligacy prevailing among its members. Archbishop Bourchier, in a commission empowering his commissary-general to take measures for the establishment of an improved discipline, refers to numbers of the clergy both secular and regular as persons wholly destitute both of literature and capacity, profligate as they were ignorant, neglecting their cures, spending their time in strolling about the country in the company of loose women, and their incomes in feasting, drinking, and other excesses. It is to be observed, too, that in the popular outcry against the church which these excesses raised, the storm fell as heavily on the regular clergy or monks, as on their secular brethren, the parish priests. The increase of wealth had done its evil work in all directions; and an affectation of concealment, which for a time preserved the shows of decency, had long been put aside. Pope Innocent VIII. issued a bull soon after Henry VII.'s accession, wherein, after stating the intelligence he had received of the reprobate lives led by all the monastic orders in England, he ordered Archbishop Morton to admonish the heads of convents of the necessity of reform, and to threaten compulsory proceedings if the admonition appeared to be neglected. Morton sent letters in consequence, and that which he addressed to the Abbot of St. Alban's has been preserved. It describes the monks of his abbey as notoriously guilty, not only of libertinism in all its forms, but of almost every other kind of enormity. The abbot individually is reproached with having filled two neighbouring nunneries, over which he pretended to have a jurisdiction, with women of infamous character, after having turned out their proper inmates; and he and his monks, besides openly keeping concubines, are accused of being in the habit of frequenting these convenient establishments in the most shameless manner. Specific instances are mentioned not fit to be recorded here, but within easy reach of all who wish to consult them. Was it such a Moslem "paradise" as this to which his Eminence referred? Or, was he momentarily confusing past and present, and thinking of the little paradise of comfort, knowledge, and happiness, left behind him as he quitted "the Flaminian gate." Under the very shadow of the Papal Palace at this moment there is a papist population, of which the proportion of priests is little less than one in eighteen, more ignorant, depraved, and criminal than anywhere else on the face of the civilised world. Nor does any man know better than Doctor Wiseman that the tendency of his religion, as at present professed, is to continue large masses of its population in that state; for, all genuine power having departed from it when its power of inspiring genuine belief passed away, the strength of his church now mainly depends upon this, and this alone.

The English people know it, and it is too late now to persuade them otherwise. They know that wherever knowledge, freedom, and the arts of life have made advance during the last three centuries, the advance has been in the teeth of the Roman Catholic Church, and in the inverse ratio to her power. Where she has been, they know that the richest lands on earth have become sterile; where she has not been, they know that the blessings of abundance have replaced sterility. They have but to look at Spain; or think of Holland; or, sending a glance across the waters of the wide Atlantic, to compare the career of the respective populations in the New World who have continued or escaped that thraldom. The plain and simple truth therefore is that the English people won't have it. They spurn it for every reason that has most weight with man. Spiritually it jars with all that is most dear to them—its principles with their love of religious truth, its practice with their love of religious liberty; driving them to shows of persecution that they may vindicate their hatred of its reality, and forcing them into the ranks of intolerants to fight the fight of toleration. Nor is it less opposed materially, than spiritually, to all that has made them what they now are. What Father Newman said the other day in Birmingham is true, though in a sense different from that in which he said it. English people had had enough of blessings and absolutions, and quite enough of the intercession of saints, when, "preferring the heathen virtues of their original nature," they fell back with closed affections

and haughty reserve upon their worldly integrity, honour, energy, prudence, and perseverance; and forthwith began to rise to a station higher than the heathen Roman, and in three centuries have attained a wider range of sovereignty, "from which they look down in contempt on what they were, and on the religion which reclaimed them from paganism." And why should they not? Is it in the nature of the divine law that man should go backward, or forward? It may be very melancholy to contemplate the fall of any faith, whether paganism or popery; but history records no such catastrophe from which new development has not begun. The law of the earth is to advance; and what seem to be retrograde movements are but so many furtherances of it. The straight line in civilisation may be no where discoverable; but progress, its object and law, never comes to a stand. The fire is dark when new fuel has been flung upon it, but the light is not extinguished. New strength and brilliancy are to follow.

Nor is it simply Doctor Nicholas Wiseman and his friends whom it behoves to take this truth to heart. Does any one doubt that our own divisions have been the chief inducement to the papal aggression? Does any one, who looks the truth boldly in the face, hesitate to feel or say that something more must result from the existing agitation, than the mere defeat of Roman Catholic pretensions? It is little to repel the enemy from the gate if the traitor remains in the citadel. Nor will it suffice to remove individual offenders. The ground of offence, the pretence for treason, must also be rooted out, at once and for ever.

The English Church was the result of a compromise with Romanism, which still lingers too much in her constitution, her doctrines, and her services. Let her be compared with the protestant churches of France, Germany, and Geneva, and this will be seen. Let comparison be made of her doctrinal confessions and discourses with her thanksgivings and prayers. Let the agitation which denounced Doctor Hampden be examined side by side with the determination which supported Mr. Gorham. Acts of uniformity have been passed in vain. Between churches of the same profession, within a hundred yards of each other, are seen daily such differences of doctrine and ceremonial as would only be intelligible in churches the most widely apart even to the denial of a common Redeemer. Yet against the long and quiet usage of the one, the other can oppose its rubric; and in the very face of the simple grandeur of the Liturgy may be flaunted the mystical pretensions of the Articles. It is time that an end should be put to this, and that "new presbyter" should be no longer mistakeable for "old priest writ large." Let us tolerate no longer in the English Church even as matter of obsolete language, that blasphemous assumption of a power of absolution which the form of Ordination allows, and which the simplicity of the Morning Service condemns. Let us expunge those curses and mysteries of the Athanasian Creed for which the Litany offers no sanction. Let us have no more unseemly disputes over that power of regeneration in baptism which no other permitted miracle in our English Church warrants us in extending to an English minister. Mr. Bennet told his audience at St. Barnabas three days ago that he could give rubrical authority for lighting candles on the altar table and other fooleries committed in his church. This may be little excuse for a man who knows the history of that rubric, and is under obligation as a Protestant minister to act in the spirit of the intelligent faith he professes; but it is excellent reason for the instant abolition of all further pretext or warrant for such absurdities. They cannot have any meaning within the walls of a Protestant church. *There*, they are simply what Lord John Russell calls them in his admirable letter, mummeries. What they may be where the Catholic worship is still believed in, and they form but part of the outward signs of mysteries which still have awful sanction in the hearts of worshippers, is not to the present purpose in the least. No Protestant has the right to affix Catholic signification to them.

What is the position of our leading English bishops, then, in this very matter? It was the Bishop of London who officiated at the consecration of St. Barnabas, who previously approved of its Popish foppery of decoration, and who, amid the candles and surplices and gorgeous accompaniments of the altar, did not scruple to declare "his admiration of the splendour of God's house which shone around him, and his appreciation of the imposing services in which he was engaged." Mr. Bennet is now using this fact as he has a perfect right to do. Those very ceremonies and decorations, so stamped with Episcopal approval, have since attracted crowds of Sunday rioters to interrupt the worship which they hold to be debased by their continuance, and the interior of an English church has again been the scene of gross and revolting disturbance. Mr. Bennet's last sermon, protected by closed doors and many policemen, was in the form of an appeal against the scandal and desecration of such scenes; but incidentally it exposed the much greater scandal. "The Bishop of London," said Mr. Bennet, "came to this church on St. Barnabas day, the 11th of June last. He entered this house of God, and examined with a critical eye every portion of it. Everything was pointed out to him by me; nothing was omitted. He came on a grand festival of the Church: he consecrated this house of God; he gave us his blessing, and went away leaving us his benediction and God speed you. Now, what difference can there be between June the 11th and November the 24th?"

Ah! what difference indeed! How striking is this simple comparison of dates. God speed you! on the 11th of June. The devil fly away with you! on the 24th of November. But a great deal had happened in the interval. In that interval the hope of establishing a Popery in England had been frustrated by the over-eagerness of a Pope in Rome; and the spiritual tyranny which Charles James had been labouring for, Pio Nono came too suddenly to claim. Let not this be forgotten in the midst of the present excitement, or its result will be to abridge our liberties instead of extending and securing them. The Bishop of London, in his charge of the 2nd of November, took the lead in denouncing "anything which may seem to indicate a wish to make the slightest approach" to what he had previously encouraged and assisted without scruple; and he has been followed by men, formerly more active even than himself in sanctioning covert Popery under the guise of Puseyism, who are now the loudest in swelling the general clamour, in denouncing the rival Pope, and in crying out for stringent measures against him. This is what, most of all, we have to guard against now. "We think we are carrying the Tractarians with us," says the excellent Dean of Bristol; "but in fact they are tricking us into support of them."

Following the inestimable counsel of that true and honest divine, we repeat that all of us will have reason to deplore the unexampled excitement now going on around us, if we do not pluck the flower from beneath the nettle. What we want is not simply to drive away the Pope of Rome, but to extirpate the popes of England. "If it could be proved to be really true," said the Dean of Bristol, at a meeting in that city, "that the Church of England does speak with so uncertain a voice as to admit within her pale the superstitious spirit of Rome, and its rites and observances, the people of England owe a great duty to the Almighty God

of truth, and that is, not to rest until a Church speaking so uncertainly be again reformed, and brought nearer to the principles of the Reformation: that is, to the principles of the pure, sincere word of God. There is a great contest going on in the world; we have not only to contend against Roman Papacy, but we have to contend against Anglo-Papacy." With the comment of these admirable sentences let the reader compare the Bishop of London's charge; and still more the recent public addresses of such men as Dr. Philpotts, Dr. Bagot, and Dr. Wilberforce; and say whether the indignation so expressed against Popery be not simply the irritation of a would-be rival popedom. They advance the most insolent pretensions, in the very act of repelling the insolence of others; and would resist an organisation against human liberty, by an authority as powerful, compact, exclusive, and domineering. They deny the spiritual supremacy of the Queen, they affirm the sacredness of the Episcopal office, they claim unbroken descent from Apostolic times, and they challenge for the "Anglican" priesthood the precise authority and power which it possessed in the three first centuries of Christianity. In short they ignore the Reformation altogether, except so far as it secures them their benefices; and set up in its place those preternatural pretensions, and that mystical character, which, during the whole of the present agitation, has been more heartily denounced than even Popery itself by the manly intelligence and spirit of Englishmen. These are the men that now require watching yet more than the Cardinal and his master. These are the men to be now, if ever, dispossessed of the power of future mischief. Our danger from them is not the less because their outcry is just now loudest against the common danger. The more they bully the Pope at present, the better their chance of escape from what is so richly their own due. Perhaps no man ever said more insulting things of Popery and its advocates than the Bishop of Oxford, the other day, to his clergy; and this at the very instant when he was claiming for his own Church precisely that for which all freemen hate the Church of Rome. He called Popery by every evil name; charged it with all abominable and hypocritical practices; and, himself the brother of a Romish convert, with marvellous taste selected a particular Romish convert for the special vials of his wrath and scorn. Father Spencer, it seems, has lately been recommending a general conversion of the families of England, by means of the scullery-maids; and this proposition, which one would have thought harmless enough, Dr. Wilberforce protested had made his heart's blood run cold. "To think," he exclaims, "that such words should be used by one bearing one of the noblest names in English history, and born in all those particulars of freedom which have so long given to the English mind that frankness of character, honesty, and openness of purpose, and the firm determination to hate and oppose all that is subtle and unclean, because untrue, for which it is distinguished!" Wondrous that the indignant speaker did not think of the *mutato nomine*, &c.! It is for others to do so. It is for Englishmen generally to examine into the nature and power of the influence which has converted no less than three members of a family "bearing one of the noblest names of English history" into allies and furtherers of Romish superstition, open or concealed. The first and greatest of the family knew it well, and his life was, for the most part, devoted to open antagonism with it. No man more resolutely opposed High Church pretensions than William Wilberforce. No man more hated priestcraft, or preached with a more ardent zeal the necessity of breaking down the organisation by which alone its evil potency is continued in England.

The conclusion of the great task, in whose commencement he was one of the leading workers, is the duty that now waits the people of England. They are called to a new Reformation, and ought not to shrink from that glorious labour. They will thus prove that love of the Church and love of freedom may be one indeed; and that English history, which has but one such example to show in the past, may for the future be filled with its triumphant manifestations.

NARRATIVE OF POLITICS.

THE following *Letter from Lord John Russell to the Bishop of Durham* has been published. It is dated the 4th inst.

MY DEAR LORD,—I agree with you in considering "the late aggression of the Pope upon our Protestantism" as "insolent and insidious," and I, therefore, feel as indignant as you can do upon the subject.

I not only promoted, to the utmost of my power, the claims of the Roman Catholics to all civil rights, but I thought it right, and even desirable, that the ecclesiastical system of the Roman Catholics should be the means of giving instruction to the numerous Irish immigrants in London and elsewhere, who without such help would have been left in heathen ignorance.

This might have been done, however, without any such innovation as that which we have now seen.

It is impossible to confound the recent measures of the Pope with the division of Scotland into dioceses by the Episcopal Church, or the arrangement of districts in England by the Wesleyan Conference.

There is an assumption of power in all the documents which have come from Rome—a pretension to supremacy over the realm of England, and a claim to sole and undivided sway, which is inconsistent with the Queen's supremacy, with the rights of our Bishops and Clergy, and with the spiritual independence of the nation, as asserted even in the Roman Catholic times.

I confess, however, that my alarm is not equal to my indignation.

Even if it shall appear that the ministers and servants of the Pope in this country have not transgressed the law, I feel persuaded that we are strong enough to repel any outward attacks. The liberty of Protestantism has been enjoyed too long in England to allow of any successful attempt to impose a foreign yoke upon our minds and consciences. No foreign Prince or Potentate will be permitted to fasten his fetters upon a nation which has so long and so nobly vindicated its right to freedom of opinion, civil, political, and religious.

Upon this subject, then, I will only say that the present state of the law shall be carefully examined, and the propriety of adopting any proceedings with reference to the recent assumption of power deliberately considered.

There is a danger, however, which alarms me much more than any aggression of a foreign Sovereign.

Clergymen of our own Church, who have subscribed the Thirty-nine Articles, and acknowledged in explicit terms the Queen's supremacy, have been the most forward in leading their flocks, "step by step, to the very verge of the precipice." The honour paid to saints, the claim of infallibility for the Church, the superstitious use of the sign of the Cross, the muttering of the Liturgy so as to disguise the language in which it is written, the recommendation of auricular confession, and the administration of penance and absolution—all these things are pointed out by Clergymen of the Church of England as worthy of adoption, and are now openly reprehended by the Bishop of London in his Charge to the Clergy of his diocese.

What, then, is the danger to be apprehended from a foreign Prince of no great power, compared to the danger within the gates from the unworthy sons of the Church of England herself?

I have little hope that the propounders and framers of these innovations will desist from their insidious course. But I rely with confidence on the people of England, and I will not bate a jot of heart or hope so long as the glorious principles and the immortal martyrs of the Reformation shall be held in reverence by the great mass of a nation which looks with contempt on the mummeries of superstition, and with scorn at the laborious endeavours which are now making to confine the intellect and enslave the soul. I remain with great respect &c.

Many addresses to the bishops from the clergy of their respective dioceses have received replies from the reverend prelates:—

The Archbishop of Canterbury briefly thanks the parties who had addressed him, for "protesting against the unexampled encroachment upon our constitution in Church and State attempted by the Pope of Rome:" the spirit roused is gratifying to him, and he hopes that the assault will only confirm more strongly the

principles of the Reformation. The Bishop of Lincoln urges temperate and unexaggerated exposure of the erroneousness of the Romish tenets; and prays God to remove internal dissension, and whatever may hinder godly union and concord.—The Bishop of Chester resents the treatment of our Established Church as a nullity, and the taking possession of the country as a spiritual waste: he confidently relies that the Government and Legislature will take effectual care of the Royal supremacy and national independence.—The Bishops of Bristol and of Bath and Wells concur in deeming the act schismatical; and the Bishop of Ripon reminds the Pope of the declaration by his predecessor Gregory the First, that "whosoever doth call himself universal bishop doth forerun Antichrist."—The Bishop of Exeter, speaking of Lord John Russell's letter, "which throws the whole blame of encouraging the Pope on a few silly or unfaithful ministers of our own church," declares that he "stands aghast at the prodigious hardihood of the noble lord's reliance on such entire forgetfulness of recent facts, or such utter disregard of truth and justice, as he is thus pleased to attribute to the people of England." With reference to "the Roman Catholic schism in this country," he counsels his clergy "to avoid giving any reasonable ground of offence to the feelings or even the prejudices of your people. As far as outward observances are concerned, I repeat what I said to you five or six years ago, 'The peculiar dangers of the times, as well as the prevailing tone of public opinion, call upon you most powerfully, as you would avoid being in the number of those by whom offences come, to forbear all unnecessary innovation, especially that worst kind of innovation the revival of obsolete usages not required by law, which are associated in the minds of the people with the superstitions and corruptions of Rome." And he meekly thanks them for their affectionate attachment to their bishop, through twenty years of more than ordinary difficulties and perplexities.

The Dean of Bristol, in a speech delivered at a meeting of clergy in that city on the 6th, entered fully into the different points of the question. He warned his hearers against being hurried into exaggeration, and into complaints and fears which would eventually only excite ridicule. "Let us feel," he said, "very contentedly aware that the Pope can neither confirm nor invalidate our orders nor any other orders than those of his own communion; and let us feel perfectly persuaded that our two most reverend prelates have not less sure and comfortable possession of the rights and revenues of their provinces at this moment than they have had hitherto. And let us not for a moment believe that the Pope can secure to himself, or to any delegates of his, so much as one atom of jurisdiction in England, no, not even over the most abject slave to his superstition. Nor let us trouble ourselves to show, as some take great pains to do, that the Pope has no claim to dominion in this realm, because of some independence of the Church of England prior to the Pope's usurpation of supremacy here, through Augustine, or through the Norman princes. Let us be very well content to know that, if this priest of Italy had had dominion over us up to this very hour, it would have been quite enough cause and excuse to us that he should cease to have it simply in our choosing no longer to submit to it. Let those grovel who will in this unworthy inquiry. Let us rather learn to know what is Christian liberty, and to thank God that we have it. Nor let us rail against 'the schism' of the Pope's measure, and talk of its being a 'fundamental principle of the universal church that there can be but one bishop in a diocese.' So doing, we condemn our own church, who at the Reformation sent bishops to Ireland, in my opinion then Catholic, and since to Canada, and to our colonies, to Malta, and to Jerusalem; we condemn the Bishop of London, who does not scruple to confirm when he is in France, and to license a clergyman in a Roman diocese at Madeira; we condemn the episcopal church of Scotland, who sent a bishop to reside at Paris; we condemn ourselves, who, I presume, without scruple, would use the ministrations of a Protestant bishop if we happened to sojourn in a Catholic diocese." He considered, however, that the manner of the Pope's measures should meet with proper reprobation; and he suggested that an address should be prepared to the Queen, conveying —"First, our regret that any foreign potentate should appear to lay claim to supremacy which is vested in the Crown, and to a jurisdiction in direct contravention to our law; next, our very humble but urgent request that her Majesty should withdraw those marks of favour and of confidence which she has been pleased so graciously to confer on the prelates of a church, both in Ireland and the colonies, who gave her no other return than ingratitude and indignity; and lastly, a renewed declaration of our perfectly unreserved attribution to the Crown of 'the supremacy in all causes, &c.,' adding that we feel ourselves impelled to that declaration because of the denial of that supremacy by some who, having made the declaration at their ordination, think fit now to modify it, and yet to retain their degrees and benefices. I would further suggest that we adopt partially the advice of the Bishop of London, and petition Parliament to the effect that if the law be not already such as shall prevent any person or persons whatever from claiming jurisdiction in the British dominions, or delegating an authority independent of the Crown, or superior to the law, or conferring titles of honour, or designations which seem meant to convey independent authority, a law shall be forthwith passed which shall secure such result." But, the Dean contended, the real danger arose from the Tractarian party in the Church itself. "The Papists, themselves," he observed, "seem to admit that all this unwonted success, astonishing themselves, and all their new-born hopes, are attributable to the existence and to the working of Tractarianism. They allege freely, they have never concealed that Tractarianism is doing their work. It is when Tractarianism has unsettled the Protestant that the Romanists step in. They haunt Tractarian congregations; they track and note those unto whom they think they may most safely address themselves; they arrange the meeting with them, as if it were casual; they convey letters to them—I speak of what I know; their argument is, that the Church of England does not, with any certainty, teach or offer what the Tractarian minister tells them, and as they admit, rightly tells them, is necessary either to a saving faith, or to spiritual life, but that the Church of Rome does; and so they ply and gain their victims." "But how," the Dean asked, "was the evil to be counteracted? How best oppose Tractarianism? How best not only show its identity with Romish falsehood, and its most plain contrariety with the history, the formularies, the temper, and aim of the Church of England? How best remove it from contact with our unsuspecting people? The Bishop of London desires us, in this crisis, to preach controversial sermons; I presume his lordship means against the Romanists, and not the Tractarians. But what if we preached controversial sermons all our lives long, and every day of our lives, either against Romanism or Tractarianism, what effect would this have if our authorities countenanced, shielded, promoted, or were by law unable to rebuke the Tractarians? Tractarianism will never be effectually checked; Tractarianism will only smile, or deride our every effort, until the authorities of our church can be induced to perceive and acknowledge the utter repugnance between Tractarianism and the teaching of our church, and the teaching of the Saviour and his Apostles." The Dean therefore concluded that the Bishops should separately be memorialised by the clergy and laity, in conjunction, of their several dioceses, urging them to remove, or at least to discountenance and restrain, Tractarian teaching and practice. He desired that such addresses should emanate from mixed meetings. "For too long (he said) and too much it has been the effort of one part of the clergy to make a distinction, and so cause division, between the clergy and the laity. We cannot too soon connect ourselves with the laity in all common counsels, and most especially connect the laity with the Bishops in kind, equal, and unreserved communication on all that concerns the interests of the church and of religion."

Numerous public meetings on the subject of the *Papal Aggression* have been held in the metropolis and

in all parts of the kingdom. A few only can be mentioned as specimens.

The Court of Common Council held two meetings, on the 7th and the 21st. At the former, Mr. J. Wood gave notice of motion for an address to the Queen in reference to the proceedings of the Pope of Rome, and expressing the undiminished attachment of the Corporation to her Majesty's person, authority, and government. As he resumed his seat, amidst "immense cheering," Mr. Blake started up, and moved the rescinding of standing orders, so that he might propose a vote of thanks to Lord John Russell for the noble letter addressed to the Bishop of Durham. He read the letter, amidst loud cheering, tumultuously renewed, with clapping of the hands from all members of the court. Mr. Bennock, Mr. R. Taylor, and Alderman Wilson, supported the motion, and it was carried by acclamation. A resolution of thanks was then proposed and unanimously carried; and it was ordered that a copy should be presented to Lord John Russell. At the latter meeting, Mr. Wood moved the address, which was seconded by Mr. Blake. Mr. Carr, a Roman Catholic, opposed the address, as promoting deplorable excitement which would separate man from man. The address was carried with the single dissentient voice of Mr. Carr.

At a meeting of the parish of St. Mary-le-Strand, the Rev. Dr. Jelf, Principal of King's College, in moving a resolution acknowledging the Queen's supremacy, and repudiating the ecclesiastical authority of the Pope in this country, made the following statement:—"The Queen herself had been the first to resent the recent audacious usurpation of the Pope. She sent speedily for the Home Secretary, who found her in her drawing-room in a state of great excitement, and her Majesty exclaimed, 'Sir George, I am Queen of England, and I will not bear this.' (Cheers.)" Mr. Daniel, a barrister, gave a version of the same story, with a little more theatrical embellishment, at a meeting in St. Andrew's, Holborn. He said—"A very few days after the Pope's bull was published there was a report current amongst them that her Majesty, the first time she read it, sent instantly to Lord John Russell, commanding his immediate attendance. On arriving, his lordship found her Majesty reading the bull, and the first thing she said to him was this:—'My lord, am I Queen of England?' Lord John Russell replied, 'Who dares doubt it, madam?' and her Majesty's rejoinder was, 'Look to it, my lord.' Hence, they might depend upon it, had arisen Lord John Russell's movements, and the invitation which had been given to her Majesty's subjects to do what those assembled were doing that night. Her Majesty was as sound as the British oak. (Tremendous and long-continued cheers for her Majesty followed this statement.)" Archdeacon Hale appeared at another meeting, also to vouch for expressions which, of course, were never uttered by her Majesty.

Among the most remarkable provincial meetings was that held at Bristol, on the 20th. It was one of the largest and most influential ever held in that city. The Dean of Bristol enforced the sentiments which he had previously delivered at the meeting of the clergy, in a speech of great power, which made a deep impression on the assembly.

The meeting at Liverpool, on the 20th, was attended by a numerous body of Protestant inhabitants; and a number of Roman Catholics were also present, in consequence of placards in the streets, "to prevent their religion from being insulted and their rights trampled upon." They interrupted the proceedings by hooting and groaning; and, when some of their number attempted to speak, they met a similar reception from the other side. When the Rev. Hugh M'Neile rose to speak, the uproar became an absolute riot. When he found he could not obtain a hearing, he drew a chair, and sitting down, leisurely began to make a speech to the reporters. The gentlemen of the press stood up, and, leaning forward with their note-books, formed themselves as well as they could into an audience for the reverend gentleman. This proceeding was at first received with shouts of laughter and great cheering by the vast meeting. But presently the malcontents jumped upon the reporters' table, and made a sortie upon the platform. The confusion at this moment was indescribable. Inkstands were upset, and note-books and slips of copy were flying about in all directions. The reporters were compelled, of course, to leave their seats and take refuge upon the platform. At this moment a body of the police, armed with their staves, made their appearance, and attempted to drive the invaders back into the pit. The mayor mounted the table, and exclaimed that he would not desert his post, although his worship's voice was all but inaudible in the uproar. In a few minutes, through the exertions of the police, the disturbance was subdued, and the proceedings were resumed.—Dr. M'Neile finished his speech, and the Protestant party carried all their resolutions.

The meeting of the county of York on the 22nd was attended by above 9000 persons, comprehending the principal noblemen and gentlemen of the county. A letter from Lord Beaumont to the Earl of Zetland, intended for that meeting, did not reach Lord Zetland till after the meeting had taken place, but has since been published. It expresses the entire concurrence of the writer, though a Roman Catholic, with the object of the meeting.

The following address, said to be from the pen of Dr. Wiseman, has been circulated for the purpose of obtaining signatures:—

"TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

"May it please your Majesty—We, the undersigned subjects of your Majesty residing in England, and professing the Roman Catholic religion, beg to approach your Majesty's throne, there to express our sentiments of unimpaired and unalterable fidelity to your Majesty's royal person, crown, and dignity.

"At a moment when attempts are being made to impeach our loyalty, we consider it a duty to give fresh utterance to these our feelings.

"During centuries of exclusion from the privileges of the constitution, and from the rights enjoyed by their fellow-subjects, the Catholics of England remained true to their allegiance to the Crown of this realm, and yielded to none in their readiness, at all times, to defend its rights and its prerogatives against every foe. And now that, under your Majesty's wise rule, we enjoy equal participation with others in the benefits of the constitution, we are more than ever animated with the same sentiments of fidelity and attachment, and are equally ready to give proof whenever occasion may present itself of the sincerity of our loyal professions.

"The dearest of the privileges to which we have thus been admitted by the wisdom of the British Legislature is that of openly professing and practising the religion of our fathers, in communion with the See of Rome. Under its teaching we have ever learnt, as a most sacred lesson, to give to Cæsar the things that are of Cæsar, as we give to God the things that are of God. In whatever, therefore, our Church has at any time done for establishing its regular system of government amongst its members in this island, we beg most fervently and most sincerely to assure your Majesty that the organisation granted to us is entirely ecclesiastical, and its authority purely spiritual. But it leaves untouched every tittle of your Majesty's right, authority, power, jurisdiction, and prerogative, as our Sovereign and as Sovereign over these realms, and does not in the leastwise diminish or impair our profound reverence, our loyalty, fidelity, and attachment to your Majesty's august person and throne; and we humbly assure your Majesty that among your Majesty's subjects there exists no class who more solemnly, more continually, or more fervently pray for the stability of your Majesty's throne, for the preservation of your Majesty's life, and for the prosperity of your Majesty's empire than the Catholics of England, in whose religion loyalty is a sacred duty and obedience a Christian virtue."

Cardinal Wiseman has published an *Appeal to the People of England*, in justification of the recent measures of the Pope; a document of great length and ability. Prefixed to it is an introduction, purporting to be a history of the Catholic hierarchy in England; and he proceeds to treat the question under the following heads:—1. The royal supremacy, and bishops named by the Crown. 2. What was the extent of religious toleration granted to Catholics—Have they a right to possess bishops or a hierarchy? 3. How could Catholics obtain

their hierarchy? 4. Does the appointment of a Catholic hierarchy trench on the prerogative of the Crown? 5. Has the mode of establishing the hierarchy been insolent and insidious? 6. The title of Westminster. In repelling the charge, in Lord John Russell's letter, that the Pope's measure is "insolent and insidious," Dr. Wiseman quotes a letter which he had written to Lord John from Vienna, on the 3rd instant, in which he said—"I cannot but most deeply regret the erroneous and even distorted view which the English papers have presented of what the Holy See has done in regard to the spiritual government of the Catholics of England; but I take the liberty of stating, that the measure now promulgated was not only prepared but printed three years ago, and a copy of it was shown to Lord Minto by the Pope, on occasion of an audience given to his lordship by his Holiness." And he proceeds to say that he could have anticipated no objection to the establishment of the hierarchy in England, after what had been sanctioned and done in Ireland, and in many of our colonies and dependencies. He thus defends his assumption of the title of Archbishop of Westminster:—"The selection of this title for the Metropolitan See of the new hierarchy has, I understand, given great offence. I am sorry for it. It was little less than necessity which led to its adoption. I must observe that, according to the discipline of the Catholic Church, a bishop's title *must* be from a town or city. In re-establishing a Catholic hierarchy in England, it was natural and decorous that its metropolitan should have his see at the capital. The very term metropolitan signifies the bishop of the metropolis. This being the principal or basis of every hierarchy, how was it to be acted on here? London was a title inhibited by law; Southwark was to form a separate see. To have taken the title of a subordinate portion of what forms the great conglomerate of London, as Finsbury or Islington, would have been to cast ridicule, and open the doors for jeers, upon the new episcopate. Besides, none of these are towns or cities. Westminster naturally suggested itself, as a city unoccupied by any Anglican see, and giving an honourable and well-known metropolitan title. It was consequently selected, and I can sincerely say that I had no part whatever in the selection. But I rejoice that it was chosen. The Chapter of Westminster has been the first to protest against the new archiepiscopal title, as though some practical attempt at jurisdiction within the *Abbey* was intended. Then let me give assurance on that point, and let us come to a fair decision and a good understanding. The diocese, indeed, of Westminster embraces a large district, but Westminster proper consists of two very different parts. One comprises the stately Abbey, with its adjacent palaces and its royal parks. To this portion the duties and occupation of the Dean and Chapter are mainly confined; and they shall range there undisturbed. To the venerable old church I may repair, as I have been wont to do. But perhaps the Dean and Chapter are not aware that, were I disposed to claim more than the right to tread the Catholic pavement of that noble building, and breathe its air of ancient consecration, another might step in with a prior claim. For successive generations there has existed ever, in the Benedictine order, an Abbot of Westminster, the representative, in religious dignity, of those who erected, and beautified, and governed that Church and cloister. Have they ever been disturbed by this 'titular?' Then let them fear no greater aggression now. Like him, I may visit, as I have said, the old abbey, and say my prayer by the shrine of good Saint Edward; and meditate on the olden times, when the church filled without a coronation, and multitudes hourly worshipped without a service. Yet this splendid monument, its treasures of art, and its fitting endowments, form not the part of Westminster which will concern me. For there is another part which stands in frightful contrast, though in immediate contact, with this magnificence. Close under the Abbey of Westminster there lie concealed labyrinths of lanes and courts, and alleys, and slums, nests of ignorance, vice, depravity, and crime, as well as of squalor, wretchedness, and disease; whose atmosphere is typhus, whose ventilation is cholera; in which swarms a huge and almost countless population, in great measure, nominally at least, Catholic; haunts of filth which no sewage committee can reach—dark corners which no lighting board can brighten. This is the part of Westminster which alone I covet, and which I shall be glad to claim and to visit as a blessed pasture in which sheep of holy church are to be tended, in which a bishop's godly work has to be done, of consoling, converting, and preserving. And if, as I humbly trust in God, it shall be seen that this special culture, arising from the establishment of our hierarchy, bear fruits of order, peacefulness, decency, religion, and virtue, it may be that the Holy See shall not be thought to have acted unwisely when it bound up the very soul and salvation of a chief pastor with those of a city where the name indeed is glorious but the purlieus infamous; in which the very grandeur of its public edifices is as a shadow to screen from the public eye sin and misery the most appalling." He denounces the conduct of the Anglican clergy on this occasion; thanks the "brave and noble-hearted people of England, who would not be stirred up by those whose duty it is to teach you gentleness, meekness, and forbearance, to support what they call a religious cause by irreligious means; and would not hunt down, when bidden, your unoffending fellow-citizens, to the hollow cry of 'No Popery,' and on the pretence of a fabled aggression;" and concludes by advising his fellow-religionists:—"Let your loyalty be unimpeachable, and your faithfulness to social duties above reproach. Shut then the mouths of adversaries, and gain the higher good-will of your fellow-countrymen, who will defend in you, as for themselves, your constitutional rights, including full religious liberty."

The Roman Catholics have also had meetings. At one of them, held at Birmingham on the 18th, a temperate address to the inhabitants was moved by Dr. J. H. Newman, the Oratorian, and unanimously adopted. Dr. Wareing has also published a mild and temperate address to his townsmen of Northampton, which concludes thus:—"For the ten years and upwards that I have resided at Northampton, I have found nothing but civility and good feeling among you; and it will be something surprising to me if this feeling is disturbed by an accidental change which concerns no one but myself and my flock. I leave you to enjoy your own opinions, and follow out your own views in religious and spiritual matters. Surely I may claim this same liberty from you. In exercising this liberty, I violate no law, I am guilty of no disloyalty to our gracious Queen. Neither the law of the land, nor her Majesty Queen Victoria, requires me to swear any belief in the spiritual supremacy of the Crown. In all temporal matters I cheerfully obey the laws of the land I live in, and am loyally and devotedly attached to my lawful Sovereign, Queen Victoria; whom may God preserve to reign over us."

The proclamation of a Romish hierarchy in England had an effect in reviving the celebration of the gunpowder plot on the 5th inst., not only in the metropolis, but in the provincial towns. It was no longer a mere amusement for the street rabble; but many displays evidently emanated from a class having larger means at their disposal. Besides the usual parading of ridiculous effigies by bands of boys, regular processions were formed, in which men carried larger figures, or conveyed them in vehicles drawn by horses. Pope and Popery came in for plentiful denunciation and ridicule, and much money was got by those who exhibited for the purpose of getting it. A remarkable demonstration of the popular feeling was spontaneously made by the numerous congregation assembled in St. Saviour's Church on that day. When the congregation arose to leave the church at the close of the service, the organ began to play the air of the national anthem; upon which the whole congregation suddenly commenced the words, and sang two verses with great enthusiasm. Mr. Curling, one of the chaplains, then succeeded in procuring a pause, and remarked, that as some expressions in the remaining verses were not quite befitting the sanctity of the edifice, they had better substitute the doxology. The organ began to play the "Old Hundredth," and the people sang "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," with a fervour and universality that evinced their cordial concurrence in the suggestion of their pastor.

Exeter distinguished itself by the splendour of its display. There was a mock procession and "induction of the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and his gang." Thirty bareheaded friars preceded a train of some two hundred other Popish orders and dignitaries, who bore gigantic effigies of the Pope and Cardinal Wiseman, and of the Inquisitor-General, surrounded by masked familiars, bearing gridirons, shackles, and other instruments of torture. The processionists marched to the Cathedral-yard, and placed the effigies on an enormous pile of wood. The whole was consumed amidst a display of fireworks and coloured lights, that astonished and gratified ten thousand spectators.

The pageant of *Lord Mayor's Day*, the 9th, was got up in an unusual manner. The custom of parading a man in armour, which is said to have cost a life per annum for a generation or two past, was discarded; and an attempt was made to organise a processional feature, emblematic of the widened dominion of man over nature, and especially illustrative of our own civilisation among the nations of the world. The cortége took the usual route to the foot of Blackfriars Bridge; thence, according to ancient usage, it went by water to Westminster. In Westminster Hall, Recorder Stuart Wortley did the honours of introduction, with a brief biographical notice, setting forth the industrial career of John Musgrove, Esq., the new Lord Mayor. Chief Baron Pollock congratulated the Lord Mayor and the citizens alike, on the election which had given the one so high a dignity and the others so good a magistrate. The Chief Baron concluded his remarks with an eulogium on the great event of the coming year. "On the subject of the approaching gathering of the works of all nations, I entertain the opinion," said the Conservative but liberal-minded judge, "that the beneficial results will be incalculable." After the usual invitation from the Lord Mayor to the Judges for the evening banquet in Guildhall, the Corporation officer withdrew, and returned by water to Blackfriars Bridge. Here the Lady Mayoress's carriage was received into the grand cortége, and the procession wound its way back to Guildhall. The citizens crowded to the streets in numbers beyond precedent, to witness the new allegorical display, which gained universal approbation. The evening banquet was held with customary splendour. The company began to arrive soon after five. At half-past six, Lord John Russell crossed the hall, amidst a vociferous chorus of cheers. Besides the Premier, there were present the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earl of Carlisle, Viscount Palmerston, Sir George Grey, Mr. Fox Maule, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, and other Judges, Mr. Lawrence, and some others of the Foreign Ministers, Lord Wharncliffe, Lord Dudley Stuart, M.P., with other Peers and Members of Parliament. The speech of the evening, of course, was that of the Prime Minister. When he rose, his appearance was the signal for the renewal of applause. Ladies waved their handkerchiefs, and gentlemen vied with one another in expression of approbation and delight, and it was some time before the noble lord could proceed. At length, as by common assent, the welcome terminated in one loud cheer, and almost in an instant there was throughout the hall an entire silence, interrupted by occasional cheers during Lord John's speech. He said, —"On behalf of her Majesty's Ministers, I have to return our most grateful thanks to the Lord Mayor and to this distinguished company for the honour that has been done us. I trust we deserve the praise which he has been pleased to bestow upon us—that it has been our endeavour to promote the best interests of the country; and it is a source of the greatest gratification to us that at this moment the tranquillity of the country and the general state of trade betoken a state of well-being and of comfort which we cannot but look upon with the highest gratification; and, gentlemen, if, as I am sorry to say, some of the powers of Europe seem disposed to interrupt that peace which has happily prevailed for so many years, I can only say that the best endeavours of her Majesty's Government will be applied to preserve that peace—that we trust we may be successful in that endeavour—and that, at all events, deep and heavy will be the responsibility of those who wantonly incur the miseries of war. With regard to this country, we can have no hesitation in pronouncing that we are preserving terms of amicable relations with all the countries of the world, and that we trust those relations may be maintained. The Lord Mayor, in speaking of any merits which her Majesty's Ministers may have, has alluded to declarations which have been made on my part. I can only say, gentlemen, that that attachment to the religious freedom of this country which I have hitherto felt will always continue to animate my breast, and that it will be my duty to maintain to the utmost of my power the supremacy of our Sovereign (a loud and general burst of cheering), and the religious liberties of the people, from whatever quarter they may be assailed. Let me add, however, one thing further. When perils much more grave, much more imminent, impended over this country, a wise Princess, who at that time ruled our destinies, thought fit to call to her aid all those, whatever might be their religious persuasion, who were faithful to the throne and true to the interests of their country. Such was the conduct of Elizabeth in times of as great danger as ever occurred to this country. Such conduct, I will venture to say, is worthy of imitation; and I believe that with religious liberty established in this country, person of all religious persuasions, while obeying the dictates of their conscience as to the mode of worship they think it right to adopt, may rally round the institutions of the country, pay a grateful homage to the Crown for the protection they receive, and rejoice that they live in a land where freedom is generally, and I trust I may say permanently, established." Speeches were also made by Lord Lansdowne, Lord Campbell, Lord Palmerston, Mr. Masterman, and lastly by Sir Peter Laurie, who energetically declared that "Britons never would be slaves, either to Pusey or Pope."

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

IN December last, the shop of Mr. Cohen, a jeweller at Newcastle, *was Robbed* of a large amount of property. Not a single article has been recovered. At the Summer Assizes, John Bell was sentenced to transportation for a burglary; since his conviction he has made some revelations with respect to the robbery at Mr. Cohen's. Mr. Simeon Joel, a bullion-dealer at Newcastle, has been arrested, and was examined on the 7th. Nothing suspicious was found on his premises. The police proved that notice was given of the robbery to Mr. Joel the day after it had been committed, to put him on his guard in buying goods. Matilda Bell, wife of the convict, stated that her husband came home on Friday night (the burglary was committed on a Friday) with a number of gold and silver spectacles and eye-glasses. Bell took some of the glasses out of the rims, and left the house with them. He returned with two earthen pots, in which he melted the gold and silver rims. Next day he took the bullion and the pots in a basket to Mr. Joel's shop; his wife waited without. Bell gave her 2*l.* and the empty basket when he came from Joel's. Some months afterwards, when Bell was in custody, he told her to go to Mr. Joel for a sovereign which was owing to him; Mr. Joel told her he did not know her husband, and did not owe him anything; and hence arose Bell's revelations implicating Joel. The police have found a number of eye-glasses buried in Bell's yard; and on the premises other things taken from Mr. Cohen's were discovered. Mr. Joel was remanded.

A new *Cabman's Trick* has just been mentioned, which is worth notice as a caution to the public. A gentleman hired a cab to take him and his luggage, amongst which was a gun-case, from Euston Square to the railway station at Paddington. When he arrived at the station, the cabman, with obsequious activity, proceeded to unload, and very quickly drove off upon receiving his fare, but scarcely had the cab disappeared when the gentleman missed his gun-case. The consequence was, that the journey was postponed, and the gentleman returned to his house, but on his way he was

informed by a policeman that the cabman who had just left him at the station was by that time in Broad Street depositing the gun-case which had been left in the cab, and to a considerable portion of the value of which the driver would be entitled for his honesty in giving it up. The owner of the property went to the Commissioners at Broad Street, representing the fact that the cabman had made the "mistake" intentionally, for the purpose of establishing a claim to the reward, and received an answer from the depôt exp essive of belief that the case was exactly as the complainant had described it, but admitting that the delinquent must still be rewarded, in the apprehension that a refusal would aggravate the system of robbery which the plan of compensation had been made to diminish. The complainant was then obliged, before he received the gun-case, to pay 10*s.* as a recompense to the rascal by whom he had been put to expense and subjected to disappointment.

Eliza Smalley, a girl of seventeen, *Murdered her Mistress*, at Stow in Lincolnshire, and endangered her master's life, by putting a solution of arsenic in the coffee they took for breakfast. Solutions of arsenic and mercury were used at the farm to soak wheat. A portion of the arsenical solution was in an iron pot, accessible to the girl. Mr. and Mrs. Page (her master and mistress) were taken ill after breakfasting, and Mrs. Page died before surgical aid could be brought to bear: her husband was saved. The girl confessed her guilt. At the inquest, Cheney, a constable, stated that she voluntarily said to him, her breast heaving violently—"Last Saturday my mistress said I had killed a fowl: I told her I had not: yesterday morning I took some mercury [arsenic] from an iron pot that stood against the back-door, and put it into the coffee-pot: I did not think it would kill her; I only thought it would have made her badly." "When I asked her where the pot was," continued the constable, "she went and showed it me. I held out no inducement to her. She confessed freely and voluntarily." The Coroner, cautioning her that what she said would be written down, asked Smalley—"Is this what you told Mr. Cheney; and is it the truth?" Prisoner (hanging down her head)—"Yes, sir." Coroner—"How old are you?" Prisoner—"I am seventeen years of age, and have lived here ever since last May-day. I have no reason to complain either of my master or mistress. The pot stood at the back-door for two days. I took the poison out with a gill mug; I took it away and put it in the dairy after having washed it. When I put the poison in the coffee-pot, I was in the kitchen. I put in a gill-full, and the coffee was boiled afterwards for a few minutes. My master and mistress got their breakfasts immediately after the coffee boiled. I saw both of them after they had done their breakfast. I was with my mistress when she died. I have never been either to church or chapel since I have lived here, but I used to go to church before I came here. I never had a Bible, but I could read a little in it if I had one. I know the Commandments, and I perfectly remember the sixth; it is, 'Thou shalt do no murder.' I cannot write." The verdict was "Wilful murder" against Eliza Smalley.

Warren, the man charged with *Fraudently obtaining Letters* from the post-office, and Hannah Leonard, a woman connected with him, were re-examined by the Leeds Magistrates on the 9th. In addition to the affair of the bill for 744*l.* stolen by Warren, a number of other cases were investigated. Warren had obtained letters containing a post-office order for 5*l.*, and a railway dividend-warrant for 6*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, which were intended for Titley and Co., of Leeds; the money for each was obtained by forging the signatures. A letter addressed to Mr. Thomas Craven, a corn-factor, was got by some one from the post-office; it contained three railway dividend-warrants—more than 30*l.* together; and they were cashed at the bank, Mr. Craven's signature having been forged on the back of the check, and the money got from the bank. A watch found on the prisoner was identified by Mr. Parker, the keeper of a coffee-house, from whose premises it was stolen. On the 11th more evidence was taken. The magistrates considered the testimony with respect to the 744*l.* bill, the 50*l.* check, and the post-office order, sufficiently strong to warrant the committal of Warren for trial on the other charges arising out of them. But with respect to cases, he was again remanded. The woman was discharged.

At the Mansion-house, on the 12th, Mr Williams, a tradesman in Regent Street, was brought before the Lord Mayor on the charge of *Stealing Silk*. On the preceding Friday, 60 pieces of plain and fancy silk were stolen from the warehouse of Messrs. Watts, in Gutter Lane; the silk was of peculiar manufacture, and was worth from 500*l.* to 600*l.* On Monday, Mr. Williams applied to Messrs. Shoolbred and Co., of Tottenham Court Road, to know if they would buy a quantity of silk; he produced twenty-two patterns; the price asked was 1*s.* 9*d.* per yard; he said the goods were to be sold that evening, and that he sold them for himself. The buyer at Shoolbred's recognised in the patterns silk for which Messrs. Watts had asked him more than 3*s.* a yard: he desired Williams to leave the patterns for a time; a communication was made to Messrs. Watts, and the patterns were identified. The police were informed of the matter. Persons went to Mr. Williams's in the evening, and made further inquiries about the silk. He now said that he had only the patterns, but he could communicate with the person for whom he wanted to sell, in an hour's time. When the police appeared, he could give no good description of the two men from whom he said he received the patterns. Mr. Northover, clerk to Messrs. Watts, identified the patterns before the Lord Mayor: the price of the silks varied from 3*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* a yard. The prisoner's counsel urged that it was not likely that he had been engaged in a burglary, and asked for his liberation on bail, that the real offenders might be taken. The Lord Mayor decided that bail might be put in on a future day—two sureties of 250*l.* each, and Mr. Williams in 500*l.*

At Marlborough Street Police Office, on the 12th, the four men charged with the *Burglary* at Mr. Holford's were finally examined. Mitchell, who was so badly wounded, appeared to have made considerable progress to recovery. The only witness examined was Mr. Wakefield, the surgeon at the House of Detention, who has had Mitchell under his care. He described the wounds he found upon him—in the body, the arms, the neck, and the scalp; he thought that sixty or seventy shot had taken effect. The riddled and bloody hat found in the grounds was shown to Mr. Wakefield, and he thought it probable that the shot-holes had been made by the portion of the charge which entered the scalp. When all the depositions had been read over, the prisoners were asked if they wished to say anything; but they declined. The magistrate discharged Robinson, who was not proved to have been engaged in the robbery, but who had been the companion of the other prisoners, with advice to quit evil companions and get his living in an honest way. The other men were committed for trial.

Mr. John George Symes, lately a surgeon at Hungerford, in Berkshire, *Poisoned himself* in London on the 9th. The deceased, who was a man of sixty-three, accompanied a friend to see the Lord Mayor's show, and parted with him about twelve, promising to meet him again in an hour, but his friend never saw him again. A cabman drove Mr. Simes on Monday night, the 11th, from the Prince of Wales, Elizabeth Street, Eaton Square, to a house in Tavistock Square. On arriving there, Mr. Symes was found dead in the cab, and as the owner of the house knew nothing of him, the cabman drove with the body to the University College Hospital. The deceased was sober when he entered the cab, in which no phial or vessel was found. When the body was examined by the house-surgeon, prussic acid sufficient to cause instant death was found in the stomach. At the inquest, a relative of the deceased stated that he was exceedingly sober and correct in his habits; and the landlord of the Prince of Wales said the deceased, who was then a little the worse for liquor, left his house shortly after twelve o'clock on Monday night. His conduct had been most gentlemanly, and did not betray the least symptom of insanity. The verdict was, that the deceased committed suicide in a certain cab, but what was his state of mind there was no evidence to prove.

The Reverend R. A. Johnstone, rector of a parish

adjoining Brentwood, was charged with *a Criminal Assault on his Servant Girl*, of fifteen; and the preliminary depositions of the girl and her mother made the affair look very disgraceful. On the day appointed for the second examination, both the women were absent; and it was stated that the family, a very poor one, had been hurried up to London, and could not be traced by the police. Mr. Johnstone was held to bail to appear again. He (the accused) attended before the Brentwood Magistrates on the 7th. Mr. Clarkson was his legal adviser. The police had not yet succeeded in bringing forward the girl and her mother, though on Thursday the officers entered a house in the suburbs of London only a few hours after the fugitives had left it. Mr. Clarkson tried to make the magistrates believe that as there were no witnesses against his client they ought at once to discharge him: but the bench refused, and again remanded Mr. Johnstone. The accused has been a very popular man in the locality, and an effective preacher. He is married, but has no children. He holds the rectory of West Horndon with Ingrave. On the 14th he again appeared before the magistrates. The girl (Mary Anne Doe by name) and her family had been at length discovered in London, and captured by the police. When Mrs. Doe saw her daughter in custody, she ran towards her, grasped her hand, and exclaimed —"Now, mind, my child, you tell the gentlemen it was all wrong which you told them before: and if they ask you how you came to tell such a tale, say you wasn't in your right mind, and you didn't know what you said." When the other witnesses were ordered out of court, that the girl might be questioned, her mother held up her finger to the daughter in a threatening manner. Mary Anne Doe's former deposition was read, and she declared it was untrue—she did not know what she was after when she made it. Mr. Johnstone had not touched her—she believed he had not, but she fainted away in the kitchen; she had been ill all night before. In a word, Mary Anne utterly denied all her former statements against the defendant. Mr. Tower, a magistrate, expressed his opinion that the complainant had been most disgracefully tutored. The chairman said, they had two depositions before them—one sworn in defendant's absence; the other made in his presence, and entirely rebutting the other. The case must therefore be dismissed. The bench subsequently directed that a bill of indictment for perjury should be prepared against the girl.

An inquest was held on the 14th on the body of Emily Nott, a servant girl of one-and-twenty, who had committed *Suicide* at Blackfriars Bridge. The girl had formed an attachment to a police constable, who being engaged to another woman, gave no encouragement to her passion. On the preceding Monday she left her situation and went to the Borough, where the officer was, but before doing so, she placed on the window-sill a letter which ran as follows:—"Dear Madam,—By the time you receive this I shall be no more. I am, madam, your unhappy servant, Emily Nott." She inquired the way to Blackfriars Bridge, and having reached it, mounted to the top, and plunged head foremost on to the causeway below. The policeman at the bridge saw her fall, and on going to her, found her head battered in. He lifted her up, when she groaned twice and expired. The jury returned a verdict of Temporary Insanity, and were further of opinion that the police constable was free from blame.

Mr. Pennington, who for fifteen years past has filled highly important offices in her Majesty's Treasury, committed *Suicide* on the 14th. About half-past 4 o'clock, a police constable heard the report of fire-arms in one of the plantations in Hyde Park, almost opposite Gore House. He immediately entered the park at the small wicket gate close to the spot, and discovered Mr. Pennington lying on his back in the plantation, with his arms extended. In his right hand a double-barrelled pistol was tightly grasped, one of the barrels of which had just been discharged; and on the lock of the other barrel was a percussion cap, and the lock was cocked. He was then still breathing, a motion of the lips and mouth being perceptible for five or six minutes. Mr. Bonney, a surgeon of Knightsbridge, examined the body, found that the deceased had shot himself through the temple, and that the ball had passed out at the back of the head. The body was then removed to the dead-house of the parish, and the clothes of the deceased were searched, where, besides money and other effects, was a card-case, in which were two cards with his name and address. Subsequently the butler in the family went to Knightsbridge, and identified the body as that of his master. Mr. Pennington had a fit about three months since, from the effects of which he had scarcely recovered, and about a fortnight since he had resigned his situation. He had left his house about half-past 2 o'clock in the afternoon, to take a walk with his daughter, and returned home in about an hour. Shortly afterwards he again went out alone, saying he would take another walk. At the coroner's inquest, on the 16th, it appeared clearly that he had suffered from aberration of the mind. He was in his fifty-sixth year; he was Auditor of the Civil List, and had been a barrister. On one occasion, he told a friend that he had experienced suicidal feelings—a desire to throw himself from a cliff at Brighton, or to shoot himself if a pistol had been within reach. Sir Frederick Thesiger saw him a few days before his death, and felt sure his mind was not in a sound state. This was the impression of the other gentlemen who were examined. Before his illness, Mr. Pennington "was of a particularly calm and well-disciplined mind," said Sir Frederick Thesiger, "and was the last man who would commit suicide." The jury at once gave this verdict—"That the deceased had died by his own hand, while in a state of unsound mind."

John Onslow, a policeman, was charged at the Lambeth Police Court on the 16th, with having made *a False and Malicious Statement* against Mr. Brookes, the proprietor of the Jolly Butchers beerhouse, in Lock's-fields. On Sunday evening, the 3d, Onslow presented himself at the door of the Jolly Butchers, and having beckoned out the landlord, addressed him in a low and confidential manner, saying, "Tell them not to make such a noise." Mr. Brookes, surprised at his manner, asked him what he meant; and Onslow, in the same tone, said, "Why, they are a-playing at cards in your parlour." Mr. Brookes denied the assertion, and asked him to go into his parlour and disabuse his mind on the subject. Onslow went into the parlour, and on his return said he knew the company had been playing at cards, but had put them away. Soon after this a sergeant came up, when Onslow improved upon his story by saying that he had been watching the house, and that he distinctly heard the parties inside call out "High, low, jack, and game," as if they had been playing at all fours; and further he said he mounted the window, and saw the party engaged in playing cards. The landlord, astonished at the hardihood of the man's statement, spoke to his customers, and it was agreed that they should at once proceed to the station-house, and mention the circumstance to the inspector on duty. On reaching the station-house, however, they found Onslow there, and that he had actually made a report of card-playing at the house. No information was laid on his representation, but on the complaint of Mr. Brooks, through Mr. Robinson, the superintendent, the Commissioners of police ordered the present inquiry. A number of respectable witnesses, who had been in the parlour of Mr. Brooks from 7 o'clock in the evening until they went to the station-house, were called, and swore distinctly that not only were there no cards played, but not a single syllable was uttered about cards or gaming of any sort, and therefore that the statement of the defendant was a deliberate falsehood. The magistrate considered the charge clearly established against the defendant, and that he was a most improper person to hold the situation of constable longer. He then convicted him in a penalty of 10*s.*, or four days' imprisonment, which would lead to his immediate discharge from the force.

A *Fearful Outrage* has been committed at Leeds by a band of Irish immigrants. On the night of Saturday, the 16th, a body of men, armed with pokers, bludgeons, and other weapons, marched to the Foresters' Arms, and finding it barred against them, broke the windows and did other damage. They then proceeded to Ball's beer-house, at the door of which stood a pony, and one

of the ringleaders, named Hogan, who was armed with a heavy bludgeon, struck the poor animal upon the head and stunned it. Two others, named Haley and Cratty, the one armed with a poker, the other with a stick, then forced their way into the house, and at once demolished all the china, glass, and other articles in the lower rooms. They next raised a wild Irish cry, and in a minute stones and brickbats poured through the bar-window, compelling the landlord and landlady to seek shelter in a corner. Haley coolly drew out the money-till, and cleared it of its contents—some 14*l.* or 15*l.* Further damage was done to the premises; then they retired, and met two policemen, upon whom they made a furious onslaught. The officers were knocked down, beaten, kicked, and jumped upon until they were to all appearance lifeless, and are lying in a dangerous state. About this time a man named James Rhodes was passing along the street, in company with his son, a boy of 10 or 11 years; three men stepped from the crowd; one of them flung a brick at Rhodes, which struck him upon the temple and knocked him to the ground insensible. He was conveyed to the infirmary, where he lay in a state of unconsciousness until Monday evening, when he became delirious, and died on Thursday. Six of the men and a woman have been apprehended and examined before the borough magistrates, by whom they have been remanded.

A remarkable case of *Fraudulent Concealment and Disposal of Property* occurred at the Insolvent Debtors' Court on the 18th. Hugh Swan, the insolvent, had been a linendraper, in Camden Town. He had been a bankrupt, and his last examination was adjourned *sine die*. He had, since he petitioned the insolvent court, applied to the Court of Bankruptcy to pass, but had not been allowed. The opposition now made against him was that he had kept fraudulent books, had defrauded his creditors of goods, and concealed and made away with considerable property. It appeared that in January, 1849, he contemplated a failure, and schemes were concocted to defraud his creditors. In April of the same year he was made a bankrupt, having previously offered his creditors a composition of 5*s.* in the pound. He now admitted that he had removed, by the assistance of one of his shopmen, George Boone, 300*l.* worth of stock just before his failure. He also admitted that other property had been removed to several persons to conceal. Also, that he had 400*l.* in money, which he concealed, and spent after his bankruptcy. He had some plate which his wife concealed, and which was pledged after the bankruptcy. He had a lease of his house in Camden-town, which was mortgaged to be kept for him after his bankruptcy. For some months before his failure he had sold goods in his trade by auction. In the month preceding his bankruptcy he got 1500*l.* of goods from his creditors, and sent about 800*l.* worth to an auctioneer's to be sold, and destroyed the documents, to conceal it from his creditors. He also omitted debts from his balance-sheet, and concealed the bills, in order to receive the money afterwards. He advanced, prior to his bankruptcy, to a market-gardener, named Bishop, at Mortlake, 350*l.* to lay out on a farm, so that he might have the benefit of it after his bankruptcy. In order to account for about 700*l.*, he got a hairdresser named Main to swear in the Court of Bankruptcy that he had pressed him for payment. Both Main and the insolvent swore to the transaction, and the latter now admitted that there was nothing due. The insolvent declared that he was assisted by Boone and an attorney named Albert Reed in his affairs. They tutored him, and he lent himself. Both these parties were in court; but as neither side would call them they were not examined. The insolvent declared that Reed, to whom he was recommended by Boone, owed him 100*l.* prior to his bankruptcy, and since he had advanced him (Reed) 350*l.*, of which he was to return him 200*l.* He, however, had turned upon him, and he (the insolvent) had given all the information to his assignees. Property to about 1400*l.* had been recovered for the creditors. He made the disclosures in court without hesitation. The details of fraud and perjury amazed the auditors. He had been in prison since March, and during the time his wife and two children had died! He was now without funds, and appeared to receive the judgment of the court for his offences. The judgment was that he should be discharged when he had, from the date of his vesting order (made about three months back) been in prison for two years.

At Westminster Police Office, on the 18th, Goss, butler to Mr. H. Drummond, of Bryanstone Square, was charged with attempting to create *a Disturbance at St. Barnabas Church* on Sunday morning. A police inspector said he hastened to St. Barnabas Church on Sunday, in consequence of information which reached him that a very large mob had assembled round the church, threatening to break open the doors and commit other acts of violence. On his arrival he saw a crowd of several thousand persons around the church, principally composed of thieves and low characters, who were threatening to break open the doors. He desired his men to disperse the crowd; and while they were doing so, the defendant, who had made himself particularly active, endeavoured to force his way into the church. Upon this, the crowd became more excited, and made use of the most violent and threatening language. The defendant was then taken into custody. A number of policemen corroborated the evidence of the inspector. Several witnesses were called by the accused; tradesmen residing near the church, who were present at the disturbance, attempting to gain admission to the church. They averred that Goss was not disorderly, and merely tried to enter the church when it was known that there was standing-room within. The man at the door produced a "warrant" to exclude people, which was read aloud. One witness stated, that during the altercation at the door, a gentleman came out, got over the boundary wall of the area of the church, and said he was disgusted; the candles were lighted, and it was Popery in the most malignant form: and that led to the mob crying out "No Popery!" Up to that time nineteen-twentieths of those present were respectable persons. A boy then came up with a life-preserver swinging in his hand. The witness called a policeman's attention to him, and said it was calculated to excite a breach of the peace. The knot of persons of whom Goss was one were inside the wall, not part of the mob outside. The Magistrate said—"I have now heard the whole of the case, and the evidence on both sides is now before me. It is quite clear that a very large mob of persons was present, a proportion of whom were highly respectable, and a portion thieves and low characters. The question is, whether the person before me was at all active in leading the mob, or doing that only which he might have a right to do—attempting to gain admission to the church. Now it appears from the evidence, that there was room inside the church when admittance was refused. I find that all he is charged with is, putting his foot to the door to get in; but a great many of the witnesses swear that he did not do so, and therefore I do not think it is a case for me to call on the defendant for sureties for his good behaviour, and I must dismiss him. But the Queen's peace must be preserved, and I am determined to preserve it within this district: but those persons have much to answer for, and undertake a serious responsibility, who provoke breaches of the peace by exciting the indignation of their fellow-subjects by the ceremonies of the Romish Church at such a time as the present." These expressions produced a general burst of applause—clapping of hands, &c., which was taken up by the persons assembled outside the court.

At Bow Street, on the 29th, Catherine Priestly, a servant, was charged with obtaining a situation by means of a *False Character;* and an elderly woman, named Ashley, was charged with having *Forged the Letter of Recommendation* by which the situation was obtained. Priestly had applied for a situation to Mrs. Farrell, of Craven Street, Strand, and had given a reference for character to a Mrs. Angell, whose address was given. Mrs. Farrell wrote accordingly, and received an answer, giving the servant a high character. She soon found it was wholly undeserved; and on making inquiry respecting Mrs. Angell, discovered that Mrs. Angell was dead, and that the letter had been fabricated by the woman Ashley, who was a gentleman's housekeeper. The magistrate observed, that so many robberies were committed in the families of gentlemen by servants of disreputable character obtaining false recom-

mendations, that it became necessary to visit such offences with the utmost severity. The persons who gave the false character were usually the worst of the two, but it was not his intention to make any distinction in the present case. He then fined the prisoners 10*l.* each, and, in default of payment, committed them each to three months' imprisonment.

The proceedings in the Bankruptcy Court, on the 20th, in the case of Lakeman and Co., produced some curious disclosures respecting *Commercial Transactions of the late King of the French.* Stephen Charles Lakeman carried on business in copartnership with one Chalè and General de Rumigny, chief aide-de-camp to King Louis Philippe. The place of business was in St. Mildred's Court, Poultry. They were commission-agents. This was a meeting for the last examination of Lakeman. Rumigny has not yet surrendered to his fiat, and he has up to this time alleged, upon affidavit, as a reason for his non-surrender, and to prevent his outlawry, that he is unable to obtain a passport, the prefect of Police, for State reasons, refusing to grant one. Lakeman, being examined at great length, gave a history of the transactions of the firm. He stated that the partnership of Rumigny was established in May, 1848, soon after the arrival of the late King in this country, solely for "political purposes." The object was to purchase the debts of the Civil List on account of the Royal Family of France. This he clearly understood from conversations with Rumigny and with the King. A loan was to be negotiated with Messrs. Baring to the amount of 800,000*l.* on the landed property of the house of Orleans in France. This money, when raised, was to be applied to the purchase of the debts of the French civil list, on account of the Royal family, it being specially provided and determined that no debt should be purchased at a less advantageous rate than 40 per cent. discount. Such was the object to be attained by the house of Lakeman, De Rumigny and Co., in May, 1848. A short time afterwards the copartnership was modified by the introduction of Chalè into the concern, and a second commission was given to the establishment as thus amended. They were "to receive goods and consignments from French manufacturers and tradesmen, advancing them money on account of such consignments, so as to gain their sympathy for the Royal Family of France." Circulars were accordingly despatched to certain French houses; a place of business was taken, "the General attended daily at the office," and customers, when they offered themselves, were introduced, in the presence of Lakeman and Co., to the Ex-King at Claremont. The concern did not prosper. Rumigny went to France, and Lakeman was left behind to face the responsibilities of the firm, which terminated in bankruptcy. It appeared by the balance-sheet that Lakeman was victimised by his partner Rumigny, who was to have brought money into the concern, but brought none, while he drew out 1300*l.* The Commissioner allowed the bankrupt to pass.

The celebrated Don Pacifico, whose claims upon the Greek government have made so much noise, has applied in the Court of Queen's Bench for a *Criminal Information against the Morning Herald for an alleged Libel.* The libel is in a letter from the private correspondent of the *Morning Herald* at Athens, dated the 28th of February, which contains the following passages:—"The Jew Pacifico, before his fraudulent bankruptcy at Constantinople, and before his consulship in Greece, held an inn in a village in Portugal." "On one occasion Don Pedro, on his way to Lisbon, first sent to say that he would stop there, and having changed his mind and taken another route, was much astonished some time afterwards to see mine host arrive with a bill for 150*l.* for the cost, he said, of his preparations to receive his Majesty. Don Pedro took the thing as a joke, but gave him 25*l.* and sent him to the rightabout." "Since then Pacifico, having changed for the third time his nationality, and put himself under Sir E. Lyons' protection, raked up this old account, which he pretends to have been torn or lost in the pillage of his house, and which suddenly took the fearful proportion of 25,000*l.* This is the principal item of the Pacifico affair, which also comprehends the indemnities for the harm done to his house, such as 2000*l.* for bronzes and crystals broken, and the rest in proportion. Now it happens, that before the riot in his house Don Pacifico had had the misfortune to have one of his daughters run away with twice—first by a merchant's clerk, and secondly by an apothecary's boy, and on this second sad catastrophe he addressed himself to King Otho, protesting that his daughter had stolen everything he possessed, and that he had nothing left to live on, and consequently asking for alms. The King, it is a well-known fact, lent him more than once 100 drachmas at a time. You may judge, therefore, of the crystals and bronzes there must have been to break in his miserable dwelling." Don Pacifico's counsel, in applying for a rule, denied all these assertions. Don Pacifico had never been at Constantinople, and had never been a bankrupt. He had three daughters, the eldest of whom married with his full consent, and the youngest, who was thirteen years of age, was still living under the parental roof. With regard to the second, to whom the libel was supposed to refer, she had been married to an officer named Lante. M. Pacifico, being a Jew, had objected to that marriage on the ground of Captain Lante's religion, and his daughter had been married without his consent; but as to her running away, or taking away with her any part of her father's property, there was no pretence whatever for the charge. The rule was granted.

Newmarket fair was infested by swarms of pickpockets and rogues of all kinds. Many persons were robbed in the street. James Betts, a young man from Snailwell, while defending his wife and sister from a gang of thieves, was struck down, and died in a little time. The murderers escaped detection. The crime so alarmed the people, that they would not leave the town but in large bands; and the first market after the fair was thinly attended, though it has been usually thronged; terror kept many away.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

THE splendid steam-yacht called the Peterhoff, built at Blackwall, for the Emperor of Russia, has been *Lost* on her passage to St. Petersburgh. Her transmission was intrusted to an eminent firm on Cornhill, who took every care to supply her with an efficient crew. A master mariner, Mr. James Boniland, who had been employed in the Baltic for the last twenty-four years, was appointed to take charge of her, her crew being selected from men who had been trading in that sea. Some five or six weeks ago she took her departure from the Thames, having on board, in addition to her crew, Mr. George Rennie, the engineer, and Mr. Waterman, jun., who designed the yacht, and who, we understand, was charged with its delivery to the emperor, with Mr. Eschapper and one or two other gentlemen. She reached Copenhagen in safety, and having taken on board two ladies attached to the embassy there for conveyance to Revel, she resumed her trip on the 22d ult. Going up the Baltic, the wind blew a hurricane; and, while making for the island of Dago, at the entrance of the Gulf of Finland, she struck on a reef of rocks. By this time the weather had moderated to a calm, otherwise every soul on board would have perished. As soon as they were seen from the land, three boats were despatched to their relief, and the weather favouring their exertions, the wreck was gained, and the whole of those on board were taken off. On reaching the shore every relief was afforded them, and it appearing impossible to rescue the wreck with the means then at command on the island, Mr. Waterman, jun., with Mr. G. Rennie, proceeded on to St. Petersburgh overland, with a view of procuring assistance. The journey being one of considerable difficulty, much delay must necessarily take place ere any relief can be rendered the wreck. Very trying weather has since set in, and the last accounts speak of her loss.

A melancholy case of *Hydrophobia* has occurred at Lochend, near Edinburgh. About seven weeks ago, a boy named Weston, between eight and nine years of age, a farm-servant, was bitten by a little dog belonging to the neighbourhood, which had been observed on the day of the accident howling and roaming about the

place in a rather unusual manner. The boy's father, in consequence, cautioned him not to approach the dog, but, heedless of the advice, he stole out unobserved, and ran to caress the little favourite, when the animal immediately leaped upon him and bit him above the eye. Having told what had taken place, the dog was immediately killed, and medical aid having been procured, the wounded part was cut out of the boy's brow, and other measures taken to prevent the virus from spreading. The wound healed up, and all seemed well, but on the 13th symptoms of hydrophobia began to appear, and although the most eminent of the medical faculty of both Edinburgh and Leith were consulted, all was unavailing, and the unfortunate sufferer died two days afterwards.

On the morning of the 15th, an explosion took place in a coal-pit at Singing Clough, near Manchester, belonging to Messrs. Knowles and Stott. Two men were killed on the spot, and two have been so much injured that but little hope can be entertained of their recovery. There were sixteen colliers in the pit, and these had descended between five and six o'clock on the above morning. At the bottom they met the underlooker, who had examined the workings to try the air, and reported all of them free from danger except the furthest point of the level, in which he directed that no one should begin to work. Shortly before seven o'clock, however, a young man, named Peter Tonge, declared his intention of going there for a tub of "slack" (small coal), and persisted in doing so, despite all remonstrance from the other workmen. Two of his fellow-workmen, named John Stone and John Lever, went with him, and so incautious were they, that although provided with safety lamps, they used a naked candle. On reaching the end of the bay, Stone is said to have "flashed" the light up to see if there was any danger, and in an instant a loud explosion took place. Lever was in the direct way of the current, which the explosion of course followed, and his life was sacrificed in an instant, the top of his skull being blown off, and his brains scattered about. Tonge was suffocated, and Stone was so fearfully scorched with the flash of the explosion that his life is in great danger. The other workmen, with one exception, were all in bays off the main level or drift way, and the ventilation of the mine being good they received no injury.

On the evening of the 15th, *a Frightful Collision* took place on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, near the Huddersfield Junction. An engine which had been undergoing repairs in the engine shed, was being replaced on the line on which it was to be worked, when it came into violent collision with the passenger train from Bradford. The shock was so violent as to smash completely the engine and tender, as well as the engine belonging to the passenger train, bringing the train itself to a dead stop. The passengers in alarm jumped out of the carriages, but had hardly time to become conscious of their fortunate escape when a goods train dashed into the standing train, doubling up all the carriages in a moment and knocking them to shivers. The scene that presented itself after this second catastrophe is described as terrible, the entire line being blocked up with a huge mass of fragments of broken carriages and engines. It was remarkable that none of the passengers were killed or injured by the flying splinters. The line was completely choked up, and men were immediately set to work to make a temporary line of rails for the usual traffic. This affair is to be made the subject of an inquiry.

On the evening of the 21st, *an Extensive Fire* broke out in the premises of Mr. Hynam, chemical light manufacturer, in Prince's Square, Finsbury. The property formed two sides of the square, and stretched across the entire length of the public road. The flames were first perceived bursting through that portion of the building between the two wings, and so high did they rise as to illuminate the principal portion of the city. The engines of the London Brigade and West of England Company speedily attended, but by that period the principal portion of the manufactory, a building 74 ft. long by 32 ft. wide, was, with the exception of a fireproof apartment, wrapped in a general blaze. The firemen, however, kept to their work, and by carrying the hose from the engines on to the roofs of the surrounding buildings, were enabled to cut off the fire from the two wings, which contained a vast quantity of property, and also the steam-engine; and at length the fire was extinguished: but by that time part of the works where the fire began was nearly burnt out, and the adjoining buildings severely damaged. Their occupiers were poor people, who had the whole of their humble furniture removed into the street to save it from the ravages of the flames. None of the property destroyed was insured.

A young man was *Injured by a Lion*, while visiting Wombwell's menagerie, at Durham. He laid his hand on the lion's paw, which was protruded through the bars of his cage,—a familiarity which the brute resented in a fearful manner. With the quickness of lightning the animal laid hold of the young man's hand, and, drawing him close against the bars of the cage with his other paw, he fastened upon his head. The cries of the lad instantly attracted the attention of the keeper, who flew to the spot, and, after severely beating the infuriated brute upon the paws, compelled him to relinquish his hold. The whole proceeding was the work of a moment, but the unfortunate lad retains traces of his fearful rencontre which he will bear with him to the grave.

An *Explosion of Fire-damp* has taken place in a coal-mine at Haydock, in Lancashire, by which nine men were killed and many others severely burnt. Four ponies were also found dead. Thirteen lives were lost in the same pit in 1845. At the inquest, it appeared that the system of supervision in the mine was very defective. The underlooker said there was great difficulty in preventing the men from working with unprotected candles, and ascribed the explosion to their negligence. But some of the miners stated that they had never been interdicted the use of candles, and that the underlooker did not visit the mine for intervals of a fortnight together. The underlooker admitted that several days might have passed without his going over the mine. The Coroner thought it was usual to inspect coal-mines every morning before the men entered to work. Mr. Tremenheere, the Government Inspector, was present; he questioned the witnesses, assisting to elicit information on the defective management of the colliery, and made some observations before the jury gave their verdict. Their finding was "Accidental death." The owner of the mine, Mr. Evans, was then sent for, and the Coroner advised him to adopt an improved system.

Houghton Pit, near Newbottle, in Durham, the property of the Earl of Durham, has been the scene of a *Similar Accident*, still more fatal. The colliery is said to have been considered in a good general condition. On the 11th, while one hundred and fifty miners were in the workings, a very violent explosion of fire-damp occurred; many of the people were blown to pieces or destroyed by the flames, but the great majority were in a safe spot. They occupied a position where the air was respirable, while they were hemmed in on all sides by the fatal choke-damp. Some who attempted to gain the shaft perished by suffocation, and others with difficulty regained their refuge. Here one hundred and twenty persons remained for hours in utter darkness, and momentarily expecting to be suffocated by the foul air. Fortunately a communication was at length opened, and all the living miners were got to the shaft. It was found that no fewer than twenty-six men and boys had been killed.

A fearful *Explosion of Naphtha* has occurred at the Roman Catholic school and reading-room at Seacombe in Cheshire. Mr. Johnson, the schoolmaster, was filling a lamp from a can of the liquid, six of the boys standing around, one holding a lighted candle; Mr. Johnson poured too much naphtha into the lamp, and it ran over, caught fire at the candle, and then the whole quantity exploded with a report like that of a cannon. Mr. Johnson and the boys were enveloped in flames, and were all much burnt; one boy died next day, and others were thought to be in danger. The people in the reading-room above were so much alarmed by the explosion that several of them jumped from the window. A number of accidents have lately happened from the incautious use of this dangerous substance.

An emigrant ship, the Edmond, of London, was *Lost During the Storm* which raged on the Irish coast on the night of the 19th. She had sailed that evening from Limerick, and went ashore on a dangerous point called Kilkee, near Kilrush. She soon went to pieces; and, of the two hundred and sixteen persons on board, ninety-six perished.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

THE *Registrar-General's Quarterly Returns* of the births and deaths, and of the marriages, in England and Wales, are favourable in a high degree. The return of the births and deaths extends to the 30th September; that of the marriages to the 30th June last. The deaths were but 86,044; whereas the deaths in the same quarter of 1849 were 135,358. The last number is of course swelled by the mortality from the cholera; but the provincial returns generally concur in declaring that sanatory measures have increased the chance of life throughout the kingdom. The Registrar thus sums up the results of his tables:—"The mortality is much below the average, and the public health has never been so good since 1845 as in the present quarter. The rate of mortality is 1·901 per cent. per annum. At this rate one in 211 persons living died in three months. The chances of living through this quarter were 210 to 1; the average chances of living through three summer months (1840, 50) for persons of all ages, being 192 to 1. The rate of mortality in 506 districts, comprising chiefly small towns and country parishes, was 1·693 per cent. per annum in the quarter; the average summer rate (1840, 50), being 1·832 per cent. The rate of mortality in 117 districts, comprising the large towns, was 2·206 per cent. per annum; the average rate (1840, 50) being 2·517 per cent. The juxtaposition of the figures in the table suggests the melancholy reflection that more than seven millions of people, inhabiting the Metropolis and all the cities and great centres of industry, are still exposed to a mortality which is not inherent in their nature, but is due to the artificial circumstances in which they are placed. The waters, the sewers, the soils, the churchyards, the houses, emit poisons. To every 10 natural deaths, 4 violent deaths—deaths from these poisonous exhalations—are superadded."—The marriages are returned by more than 12,000 churches or chapels, 2869 registered places of worship connected with the Established Church, and 623 superintendent registrars' offices. The results are given collectively, and in groups, showing the special movement of particular districts. It is, that the average increase of marriages invariably accompanies prosperity, and the average decrease attends a reverse of prosperity in manufacturing and commercial pursuits: the remarkable exception of agricultural Lincolnshire may be held to prove the general rule:—"The marriages in all England in the quarter ending June 30, 1850, were 39,018. The numbers in the spring quarter declined rapidly from 1846 to 1848, and rose still more rapidly up to 1850; thus following and pourtraying the state of the country. London, Cheshire, Lancashire, the West Riding of Yorkshire, and South Wales, presented the greatest fluctuations, and the greatest increase of marriages in the June quarter 1850. The marriages increased in Middlesex, Hertford, and Buckingham; in Essex and Suffolk the marriages declined, as they did also in Devon and Cornwall; in Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, and Warwickshire—the coal and iron regions—the marriages increased; they increased also in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire—the seats of the thread, lace, and other manufactures. In the great agricultural county of Lincoln the fluctuation was in an opposite direction; the marriages rose from June 1846 to June 1848, and then declined. In the East and North Ridings, Durham, Northumberland and Cumberland, and Westmoreland, in Monmouthshire, and North Wales, the marriages increased in 1850. The marriages in Portsmouth and Plymouth declined; in Bristol and Cheltenham they increased; in Stoke-upon-Trent (the Potteries), in Coventry, and in Birmingham, Liverpool, and Manchester, the increase was considerable. It was still greater in Leeds; Halifax and Sheffield shared in the general advance. Hull, Wolverhampton, and Salisbury—where cholera was exceedingly fatal in 1849—have little more than the average marriages."—Of births, 146,970 were registered. "The births are invariably more numerous in the first and second than in the third and fourth quarters of the year; and they are in the last fewer by 8,757 than in the previous June quarter: the number and the proportion to the population are, however, greater in this than in any of the corresponding quarters since 1839. The increase of births is greatest in London, in the West Midland Counties, and in the North Western Counties, Cheshire, and Lancashire." The bearing of these details on the statistics of our population, is thus shown—"The excess of births registered over deaths in the quarter was 60,926; which, if all the births were registered, would be the natural increase of the population. In the same time, 53,703 emigrants sailed from three ports of England; 1394 from Plymouth, 7684 from London, and 44,625 from Liverpool. This leaves a narrow margin for the increase of population; but many of the emigrants entered at the English ports are from Ireland, which has been for many years diffusing a stream of natives over England as well as America. The progress of the whole fixed and moving population of the country can only be determined accurately from a comparison of the returns of births and deaths, of emigrants and immigrants, with periodical enumerations."

The *Lancashire Public Schools Association* held a conference at Manchester on the 27th ult. Mr. Alexander Henry, M.P., presided; Mr. Cobden, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. J. B. Smith, and most of the prominent friends of the movement in London, Liverpool, and Leeds, and in Scotland and Ireland, together with the Rev. Dr. Bacon, a gentleman of learning and personal weight from Newhaven, in the American State of Connecticut, were present. Letters of regretful excuse were read from Mr. C. P. Villiers, Mr. Hume, Mr. Ewart, Colonel Thompson, and some other members of Parliament, and from the Archbishop of Dublin, Mr. John Stuart Mill, Mr. Carlyle, and the Messrs. Chambers of Edinburgh, and other friends of the movement.—The principal speakers were Mr. Samuel Lucas, of London, Mr. Absalon Watkin, the Rev. Mr. Thorp, rector of Burton Overy in Leicestershire, and Mr. Cobden. A change in the title was suggested by Mr. Cobden—from *Secular* Schools to *Public* Schools Association; on the ground (he said) that Dr. Samuel Johnson defines "secular" to be not merely non-sectarian, but a great deal more—"not spiritual—relating to the affairs of the present world—not holy—worldly." Now he did not think that this School Association was unspiritual; he did not think it deserved the name of irreligious. There was no greater foe to religion than vice, and no greater support to vice than ignorance. In fact, ignorance was the great parent of vice. The association sought to promote knowledge. They were promoting religion by promoting knowledge in its highest form, and that form of religion, too, which when understood must have the support of all classes. The suggestion caused a good deal of verbal criticism; but in the end Mr. Cobden's suggestion was adopted, and the title of the new organisation will be the National Public School Association.

The annual election of children to *the Asylum for Idiots* took place on the 31st ult., when 15 of this unhappy class were elected out of no fewer than 170 eligible candidates. Previous to the election, a general meeting of the subscribers was held, at which Alderman Sir George Carroll presided. In advocating the claims of the charity, he observed that two great fundamental objections had met them at the very threshold of their undertaking—one was, that they could do nothing for the idiot; and the other was, that there were comparatively no idiots. The first objection had been fully answered by the patient efforts of the last two years, for though they were unable to point to any positive instance of a perfect cure, there were at this moment many cases exhibiting a considerable state of improvement. A poor laundress, whose child had been at the asylum, was so struck with the great improvement that had taken place in him, that with tears in her eyes she had

recently called upon the secretary, and had insisted upon his accepting half a guinea as a mark of her gratitude. As regarded the second objection, it was not at that time, perhaps, known that a multitude of these cases were hidden, from shame or sorrow, not only from the eye of the world, but from the observation of social intercourse; for it was now ascertained from correct statistics that the number of idiots exceeded that of lunatics. The report stated that the board had taken two houses of great capacity—one at Highgate, and the other at Colchester. Those establishments at present contained 129 inmates, which, with the 15 elected on the 31st, made a total of 144. There was ample accommodation for additional inmates, but though the receipts of the past year had amounted to between 4000*l.* and 5000*l.*, additional support was necessary to enable the board to extend to any sensible degree the benefits of the institution.

The principle of *Singing Classes* is beginning to be introduced into the army. The United Service Gazette says—We observe that singing classes have been introduced into the 76th Foot. We learn that the general officer commanding the Portsmouth district intends inviting Mr. Hullah to the garrison for the purpose of inoculating the troops with his admirable system; and we hear from a corps in Ireland that not only are the men encouraged to glee and part singing, but are now in the habit of chaunting the whole of the service in the parish church of the town in which they are quartered. We hope to hear of the extension of the rational and harmonious pastime. Not only should singing classes be instituted, but music might be taught and facilities afforded for its cultivation at a very moderate expense.

The *Common Law Commissioners* are prosecuting their labours with great diligence. It is believed that their report will be ready before the meeting of Parliament, and that it will contain some valuable recommendations. The attention of the Commissioners has been especially directed to the effects of the County Courts Extension Act upon the business of the Courts at Westminster Hall. It is apprehended, not without great reason, that, in addition to the inducements of a cheap tribunal and a speedy administration of justice in the local courts, the existing costly and complex mode of proceeding by action in all courts of common law will continue still further to crowd and increase the popularity of the inferior tribunals. To remedy this evil, it is expected that the report will enforce the necessity of the utmost simplification, economy, and despatch, in all future proceedings in the common law courts, and the abolition of all technicalities which impede a speedy trial on the merits.

An association for *Improving the Social and Moral Condition of Labourers and others residing in the Parishes of Windsor, Eton, and the neighbouring districts*, has just been formed at Windsor, under the immediate auspices and patronage of the Queen and the Prince Consort. The Duchess of Kent has consented to become the lady patroness, and Prince Albert to be president of the society. The vice-presidents include Major-General Wemyss, Sir George Couper, the Dean and Canons of Windsor, the Mayor of Windsor, and many of the most influential residents of the vicinity. The Hon. Colonel Phipps, the Hon. Colonel Grey, the Hon. and Rev. Gerard Wellesley, and the neighbouring clergy, are members of the provisional committee. The design of the association is to encourage among labourers and their families, and domestic and other servants, habits of morality, good order, providence, and industry, by the annual distribution of rewards in money and appropriate medals. Medals will also be presented by the royal president in special cases to the most deserving.

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce has resolved to send a commissioner to India, at its own cost, to inquire into the obstacles which prevent an increased *Growth of Cotton in that Country*. Mr. Alexander Mackay, author of "The Western World," is the gentleman selected for the duty.

The Commissioners of Woods and Forests have completed the arrangements for carrying into effect the projected *Park in Battersea Fields*. They have purchased, for the sum of 11,000*l.*, the shooting-grounds and pleasure-gardens of the famed Red House, on the river-bank; and will commence without delay the erection of the iron suspension-bridge which is to cross the Thames immediately below Chelsea Hospital.

At a court held on the 12th, the Goldsmiths' Company unanimously decided *to award One Thousand Pounds for Prizes* to be given to those artists of the craft, of the United Kingdom, who can produce works of the highest design and merit in gold and silver plate, for the Exhibition of 1851. The sum of 1000*l.* is to be divided into prizes varying in amount from 300*l.* to 20*l.* and 10*l.* for works of the most costly description, which it is more than probable will be eventually purchased by the Company. There will be services, candelabra, church plate, and smaller objects, even to a salt-cellar; so that the most humble artisan in the craft shall receive his impulse, to encourage him in honourable exertion, as much in proportion as the first goldsmith in the land. The various works for competition are to be forwarded to the Goldsmiths' Hall without the name of the owner; when each piece will be rigidly scrutinised, and those possessing the highest standard of merit in both design and workmanship will be accepted and forwarded to the Exhibition of 1851, and take their stand in competition against the whole world.

A meeting of the *Peace Society* was held at Wrexham, on the 12th. An announcement that Mr. Cobden was to be present had doubtless the effect of increasing the attendance. About 2000 persons were present, though the admission was by ticket at one shilling and sixpence each. Townsend Mainwaring, Esq., formerly member for Denbigh, was in the chair. Mr. Sturge gave a detail of the recent endeavours of Messrs. Burrett, Wheeler, and himself, to put a stop to the war between Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein. Mr. Cobden entered fully into the objects and history of the Peace Society; and, in the course of his speech, adverted to the fact that in 1841 Sir R. Peel was the very first to recommend that agitation in which the peace party and himself were engaged. That statesman spoke of the enormous standing armaments, and of the dangers of the governments of Europe, and he showed that the English government ought to endeavour to come to some terms by which they might effect a mutual reduction of armaments. They could therefore claim for their movement the sanction and approbation of the most practical statesman that had lived in our age. Mr. Cobden then briefly adverted to the Peace Congress doctrine; and said that the society wished, if possible, to prevent the people from lending their money to bankrupt governments, and those governments keeping up great military establishments. With reference to the scorn cast upon them that they were enthusiasts or Utopians, let people not think that he was dreaming of the Millennium, but let them think that he entered upon this work with the impression that he would never see the Millennium, but that the sword would continue to be drawn and war waged long after his time. He did not believe that they were going to bring about any sudden and instantaneous change in the policy of states, but he firmly believed that they were engaged in a work in which conscience and holy Heaven would find cause of approbation. Mr. Williams, M.P. for Macclesfield, moved a resolution to the effect that this meeting, having heard the explanations of the objects of the Peace Congress, was of opinion that every effort should be made to induce the government to substitute reason for physical force in deciding international disputes, and that it is the duty of Great Britain to set an example to the civilised world by greatly reducing its present extensive armament. Mr. T. Edgeworth, of Wrexham, seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The imperfect protection afforded by the existing law of patents, and the injurious costliness of obtaining that protection, have lately led to the formation of a *Patent-law Reform League*. On the 13th, a deputation from this body had an interview, by appointment, with Sir George Grey and Mr. Labouchere, at the Home Office. The deputation having reporters with it, Sir George Grey guarded himself, and also warned Mr. Labouchere, when he entered the room, against expressing any opinion. He remarked that the society had presented a memorial to the Queen, and asked had they any state-

ments to add to that memorial: or had they any suggestions to make beyond those contained in the report of the committee on the Privy Seal and Signet Office. Mr. Campin replied, that "the suggestions of the committee's report are good, but they do not go far enough: the main object is to have an immediate reduction of the cost of the patent from its present prohibitive amount of 100*l.* for each of the three United Kingdoms, and to have preliminary registration at no cost. In America the cost of a patent is about 6*l.* or 7*l.* to a citizen; to an Englishman it is 500 dollars, because we charge so much in our country." Mr. Price stated that he had been secretary to a society formed to assist poor inventors; but the society fell to the ground, from inability to meet the immense charges of the Patent Office; if a society was so beaten, how fatally must the poor inventors themselves be repressed? Mr. Campin, Mr. Waller, and Mr. Townley said, that if something be not done immediately, a number of persons intending to prepare models for the exhibition next year must hold back. Mr. Labouchere observed, that what the applicants wanted seemed to be not so much a general measure of Patent-law as an immediate measure to reduce the expenses. Mr. Campin assented; and Mr. Labouchere expressed his wish to receive a written communication stating how it was proposed to accomplish this object.

At the yearly meeting of the *Burton-on-Trent Farmers' Club*, on the 14th, Mr. Adderley, M.P., Mr. Evans, M.P., and Mr. W. Gisborne, gave expression to their views on the difficult position of the agricultural interest. Mr. Adderley urged on proprietors the necessity for meeting, in a temporary manner, the depression of the present transition state. Mr. Evans acknowledged that if prices continue as they are, there can be no doubt that the relations of landlord and tenant must undergo considerable alteration. Mr. Gisborne declared his opinion, after giving the whole subject his most impartial consideration, that the landed interest is unequally and unfairly burdened in respect of local taxation: nevertheless, with respect to burdens, he was little sanguine of a reduction; he did not blame members of parliament, nor the ministry, on this subject; for the real fact was, the constituencies themselves cared nothing at all about economy. He ascribed the fall of prices to the fact that commodities have for many years increased faster than gold; larger supplies of gold, especially those from recently-discovered sources, would check this. And on the whole his opinion was, that the lowest point was passed, and that there were signs of improvement.

The Board of Health has published a report by the Honourable William Napier on the gathering-grounds of the proposed *Water-supply to the Metropolis*. Mr. Napier had been commissioned to gauge the streams and make a careful re-examination of the capabilities of the country for the purpose intended. He states that, at first view, he rather feared he should not find sources that would yield as much as the present supply—equal to a canal nine feet wide and three feet deep, flowing two miles an hour throughout the day and night; but a month's search has produced the result. He gives a table of forty springs which yield at their source nearly forty millions of gallons per day, of a quality at and under one degree of hardness, equivalent to the supply of more than half a million houses, at the rate of seventy-five gallons for each house per day; and he can answer for at least ten more millions of gallons per day at and under two degrees of hardness. He gives the names of these springs, in a table showing the yield and hardness of each. Mr. Napier's researches, however, have thrown so much doubt into his mind in reference to the plan of gigantic reservoirs for storing the supply for months, that he proposes a plan of tile-drains which shall catch the waters as they issue from the earth, and lead them to a main trunk that shall flow into a covered reservoir on Wimbledon Common, large enough to contain two days' supply against any emergency, and throwing its waste into the Thames. He promises in a future report to give the details, and estimate the cost of his proposed plan.

A correspondence, respecting *the Boys who were expelled from Woolwich and Carshalton*, has taken place between Mr. J. Leveson Gower (on the part of the parents and guardians of the boys) and the Master-General of the Ordnance. Mr. Leveson Gower urges Lord Anglesey, amongst other points, to revoke the sentence passed upon the boys, and re-investigate the case, which the Master-General declines to do on various grounds—one of the most cogent being, that to do so would involve a publication of the whole evidence; which Lord Anglesey not only deprecates, but warns the parents and guardians against having recourse to. Lord Anglesey further denies that his circular ordering the removal of the boys can justify the assertion that it tended to impute the worst of crimes to a single individual implicated. Mr. Leveson Gower closes the correspondence by stating that such further measures in the conduct of the case will be adopted, as upon consideration may be deemed to be expedient.

The Admiralty have determined to put an end to the practice of having "*Mess-men*" in the Navy. No person is in future to be entered on board her Majesty's ships, or to be employed in the service, as a "mess-man," whether in the gun-room mess or the ward-room mess; it having been found that most of the extravagance, and nearly all the intemperance, with their concomitants—ruin, disgrace, degradation, and loss of position in the service, and society—are attributable to the practice of the gun-room mess of large ships appointing a regular "messman," from whom any quantity of spirits or wine could be procured by paying for it.

At a meeting of the *Law Amendment Society*, on the 18th, Mr. Dudley Field, one of the Commissioners who prepared the Amended Code for the State of New York, was introduced, and gave an account of the improvements made by that code in the system of legal procedure. He stated, in the first place, that the courts of justice in the State of New York were originally modelled on the old system of England. They had a Chancellor and a Vice-Chancellor, whose jurisdiction was modelled on the English Courts of Equity; they had a Supreme Court, like the Court of Queen's Bench; they had a Court of Appeal, consisting of the Senate, answering to the House of Lords; and when an appeal came from the Court of Chancery, the Judges of the Supreme Court sat with the Senate; when, on the other hand, the appeal came from the Supreme Court, the Judges of the Court of Chancery sat in the Senate. Thus they had two systems—that of Common Law, and that of Equity; and suitors were bandied about between both till their patience or their purse was exhausted. They had also different forms of procedure in actions at common law, which added to the difficulty and uncertainty of obtaining justice. Such were the intolerable evils of the system, that the first thing the Convention did was to abolish the Court of Chancery in toto, and to create one supreme tribunal, which should administer all the laws of the land, whether in law or in equity; and that testimony should be taken, whenever the witnesses were within the State, *vivâ voce*. This was in 1847, and three commissioners were appointed to carry their recommendation into effect. The commissioners reported from time to time; their first report being made in February 1848, and their recommendations passed into a law on the 1st of July in the same year. In the next year some additional portions of the code were prepared, which were passed into a law in the course of last session; and on the last day of last year the whole code, civil and criminal, was given in by the commissioners, but that had not yet been passed into a law. What had been made law comprised nearly all the provisions relating to civil actions, by which all the previously existing rules of pleading were abolished, and one uniform course of procedure for all kinds of actions was established. They had adopted such a system of pleading as parties would naturally adopt in a case of private arbitration. The plaintiff, in his first pleading, stated in plain and ordinary but precise language what was the nature of his complaint, and what the ground of his remedy. Then the defendant put forth his answer, specifically denying those portions of the plaintiff's allegation which he meant to controvert, and admitting those which he did not, besides stating any new matter on which he might rely. To that new matter the plaintiff was allowed to reply, and then the proceedings closed and the cause was ready for trial.

This was the whole system; and it was found completely to obviate the whole difficulties that might be expected to arise in fusing the legal and equitable proceedings. With regard to the practical results of the system, he might state that he had not found the slightest difficulty in the world, and he did not know of a single person at the bar of New York who asserted that the union of the two practices was attended with any difficulty. Of course there was great clamour at first, and many prophecies of failure; but in practice no difficulty had been found. The code had been copied, in whole or in part, by the States of Missouri, California, and Mississippi; and conventions for adopting it were about to be held in Kentucky, Iowa, Tenessee, and Massachusetts.

In answer to questions put to Mr. Field respecting the working of the new system in New York, he said, that the parties in a cause are sworn to the truth of their statements according to their knowledge and belief; with this exception, that if the plaintiff dispenses with the oath of the defendant, he is not called upon to give his own. They may also be brought before the jury. One effect of this rule is, that a plaintiff sometimes at once proves his case without the expense of other witnesses, and at other times he learns immediately that which shows him that he cannot prove his case at all. As to costs, between the lawyer and client, the old fee-table has been abolished: the law does not interfere with bargains for remuneration between the lawyers and client; and if no specific bargain is made, the court decides according to the custom of the profession—as it does on the fees of doctors, and of gentlemen in other professions. Between party and party, the scale of costs is regulated by stages of the proceeding—so much up to preparation for trial, so much more for the next stage, and so on. Any cause may be got ready for trial in forty days—an ordinary one in twenty days; and, when the heavy arrears of the old system shall have been cleared off, it will be possible to carry a case wholly through in a single year, including a first appeal before three or four judges, and a second appeal before eight judges. The meeting cordially thanked Mr. Field for the valuable information he had given.

The *Dangers of the Navigation of the Channel* are strikingly exhibited by an important document just published, compiled by Mr. J. Young, of the Underwriters' room at Lloyd's, giving a list of the wrecks and casualties to shipping which have been officially reported to have occurred between Dungeness and London during a period of eighteen months, from January, 1849, to June, 1850, inclusive. To each casualty is affixed the extent of damage sustained, estimated as nearly as could be ascertained. The result is, that during the eighteen months in question the amount of property destroyed by known wrecks and casualties, is between 400,000*l.* and 500,000*l.*, besides the sacrifice of a great number of lives. The object of the compiler is to show the enormous annual destruction of property occasioned by the dangers of navigation between the Isle of Wight and the Thames, which would be avoided by homeward-bound ships discharging in the Southampton docks, besides the saving that would be effected in the rate of insurance, time occupied between the island and London, and the extra cost of wages, provisions, and incidental expenses. It is a remarkable fact that few wrecks ever take place in that part of the British Channel to the westward of the Wight, but that the real dangers commence after passing the back of the island to proceed to the Thames. To this document is subjoined an abstract of the loss of shipping and life, between the Isle of Wight and London, for the seven years from 1837 to 1843 inclusive, by which it appears that during that period 499 vessels lost anchors and cables, were partially dismasted by bad weather or being run foul of, or sustained other damage; 560 vessels took the ground, but were got off again; 260 vessels entirely wrecked or foundered, of which the crews and passengers were saved; 56 vessels were totally lost, with all or several of the crews or passengers; the total number of casualties being 1375. Amongst the ships lost in 1842 and 1843 were those splendid Indiamen, the Reliance and the Conqueror, nearly every soul on board of which, amounting to little short of 200, perished. In the latter year the ship Burhampooter, with emigrants from London for New South Wales, was, a few hours after leaving the Thames, utterly wrecked near Margate, on which occasion the people on board had a hair-breadth escape with their lives, losing all the property they had. The loss of the Amphitrite is also too recent to be forgotten; she was riding at anchor in the Downs, was driven out by violent weather, and totally wrecked near Boulogne; she had on board nearly 200 female convicts, bound to Australia, all of whom, with the whole of the crew, were drowned, and the vessel scattered in fragments on the shore. During the first six months of 1850 it appears that no less than eight vesssels have been lost between London and the Wight, with all on board; and the number of lives so sacrificed is estimated as little short of 500.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Queen and the Royal Family returned from Osborne to Windsor Castle on the 1st instant. Her Majesty's private band, which had not played before the Court since the death of Sir Robert Peel, resumed its rehearsals on the day before her Majesty's arrival.

Mr. George Arbuthnot has been appointed *Auditor of the Civil List*, one of the most important offices in the Treasury. Mr. Stephenson succeeds Mr. Arbuthnot as private secretary to Sir Charles Wood.

At a Court of Directors, held in the East India House on the 13th, Lieutenant-General Sir John Grey, K.C.B., was sworn in *Commander-in-Chief of the Company's forces*, and second member of Council on the Bombay Establishment.

The Right Honourable Richard Lalor Sheil has been appointed her Majesty's *Minister Plenipotentiary at Florence*, in the place of the late Sir George Hamilton.

It is understood that Sir John Herschel will succeed Mr. Sheil as *Master of the Mint*. This appointment will no longer be held by a member of parliament, and the salary will be reduced to 1500*l.* a year.

The *Gazette* of the 5th announces that the Queen has granted to Sir Robert Monsey Rolfe, late Baron of the Exchequer, the office of a *Vice-Chancellor of the Court of Chancery* in England.

The Queen has granted a *Pension* of 100*l.* a year to Mr. John Payne Collier, the editor of "Shakspere," and author of the "History of the English Stage." The warrant expressly mentions that the pension is given "in consideration of his literary merits."

Mr. (now Sir Charles) Eastlake has been elected *President of the Royal Academy*, and has received from the Queen the honour of knighthood.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

The Dowager Lady SUFFIELD died at Blickling Hall, in Norfolk, on the 27th ult.

Dr. INGLIS, Bishop of Nova Scotia, died in Curzon Street, May Fair, on the 27th ult., in the 73rd year of his age.

Sir DONALD CAMPBELL, Bart., Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward's Island, died at the Government House, Charlottetown, on the 18th ult., aged 50.

Mr. Commissioner HARRIS, of the Insolvent Debtors' Court, died at his residence in Chester-place, on the 25th ult., in his 77th year. He had been a commissioner of that court for nearly thirty years.

Lord RANCLIFFE died on the 1st inst., at Bunney Hall, near Nottingham. He was in his 65th year; the title is extinct.

ANNE LANCEY, widow of the late Thomas Lancey, Esq., died on the 9th, at Greenwich, in her 101st year.

The Countess of CRAWFORD and BALCARRES died at Haigh Hall, Lancashire, on the 16th, in her 67th year.

ALEXANDER RAPHAEL, Esq., M.P., died at Surbiton, on the 17th, in his 75th year.

The Right Rev. Dr. KENNEDY, Roman Catholic Bishop of Killaloe, died at Parsonstown, King's County, after a protracted illness, in his sixty-third year. Dr. Kennedy had attended the synod at Thurles, where he had taken an active part in opposing the condemnation of the Queen's Colleges; and he was one of the thirteen prelates who subsequently signed a memorial to the Pope, with respect to those institutions. The deceased prelate had been most earnest and successful in his exertions to discourage the "Young Ireland" movement during the excitement of 1848.

The Right Hon. Lord NUGENT, M.P. for the borough of Aylesbury, at his seat, Lillies, on the 26th.—

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE intelligence from India contains no item so interesting as the commencement of the Bombay railway. From the Australian Colonies there is as great a void of political news; but we have tidings, which to many will be extremely welcome, of the landing of the first batch of female emigrants sent out by Mr. Sidney Herbert's Committee. Thirty-eight had been landed at Port Philip; sixty-five at Adelaide; and all had been placed in excellent situations within a few days after landing. The Sidney paper tells us much of Doctor Lang, and the doctor adds a little from himself. He has fulminated a sort of bull or allocution against the new constitution, and has given formal notice of a motion in the Council Chamber which is to do nothing less than annihilate Lord Grey. We shall see.

The *Overland Mail* bring dates from Bombay to the 17th ult. British India was quite tranquil. The civil war in the Nizam's territories still lingers on, and another affair has taken place in the neighbourhood of Elichpoor between the troops of its Newab and those of the Nizam, in which the latter were defeated, and lost two guns, but no particulars have yet transpired.

The Governor-General was expected at Simla on the 5th or 6th instant. His party were all in excellent health. Lord Falkland was at the Mahableshwur hills; he had had another severe attack since the departure of the last mail, but was better. His state of health, however, continued to occasion serious apprehensions of his being ultimately obliged to resign his post for the same cause as his two predecessors, Sir G. Arthur and Sir G. Clerk. The works of the Bombay Railway had commenced.

The accounts from *Hong Kong* are to the 29th of September. There had been a very great improvement in the health of the men belonging to the 59th Regiment. The fever had greatly abated. There were still many in the hospital, but the deaths latterly had only averaged about three a week. The insurrection in one of the adjoining provinces to Canton had become of such magnitude, that a body of Government troops had been defeated, and the rebels were said to be already in the Canton province. The authorities there were preparing all the force they could muster to march against the rebels. The movement is said to be directed against the Tartar dynasty, but it is impossible to obtain correct information.—The alarming state of the country occasioned much uneasiness to the Chinese population in Canton.

A *Piratical Mutiny* had taken place on board the ship Kelso, which arrived at Hong Kong on the 14th of September from San Francisco. About three weeks before the vessel's arrival Captain Innes was informed by two of his crew that a mutinous feeling prevailed among part of the ship's company, who had determined to murder him, the steward, and carpenter, and seize upon the vessel, in which they expected to find a large amount of treasure. Captain Innes, with the energy and coolness which mark the true sailor, adopted the requisite means to insure the safety of the ship. The plot had been hatched by some sailors shipped in San Francisco to replace men who had left the vessel after her outward voyage. On the evening on which the piracy was attempted, Captain Innes, having previously had information of the intention of the ringleaders, retired—not to the cabin he was accustomed to use, but to an adjoining one—the steward also, by his orders, changing his sleeping place. Under the dread of momentary attack sleepless vigilance was called for. The night progressed, the mutineers broke open the arms' chest and possessed themselves of its contents; but, fortunately, it contained no powder. One of the mutineers crawling on his hands and knees into the cabin which had been vacated, gave intimation to Captain Innes that the moment for action had come. He fired at the ruffian and shot him dead. He then made his way through the skylight to the poop, where he found the mutineers all armed. Calling upon them to lay down their arms, his order was obeyed by all but one, who endeavoured still to intimidate and approach him. Captain Innes told the man he would call upon him three several times to lay down his weapon and go forward; and that, failing his doing so, he would shoot him. He persisted. The captain fired, mortally wounding him, when the mutiny was quelled. The man, at the date of the account, was lying at the point of death in the Hong Kong hospital, and his fellow-criminals were under examination before the police magistrates.

The accounts from *Jamaica* are highly important. The cholera was raging fearfully in Kingston, Port Royal, and St. Catherine's; and, up to the time of the packet's departure, the deaths in Kingston averaged at least 30 a day. The latest official accounts published up to the morning of the 27th of October showed a total of 266 deaths in Kingston alone. In Port Royal and St. Catherine's the actual numbers were less; but, compared to the population of Kingston, the mortality has been far greater, particularly in Port Royal, where about an eighth of the population has been cut off. The deaths in all parts, with two or three exceptions, occurred among the lower orders of the black people, some of whom resided in miserable hovels and damp localities. An order has been issued by the Governor in Council forbidding communication coastwise between Port Royal and Kingston, and the uninfected ports, under certain restrictions. In all districts the want of medical men was much felt. Kingston, with a population of some 40,000 inhabitants, contains only ten doctors, who, in addition to their private business, have in various instances to attend the public prisons and institutions. Spanish Town contains but three doctors, and Port Royal none at all. At the latter place the services of the surgeons attached to the Royal army were secured through the influence of the Kingston authorities. The House of Assembly met on the 22d of October, and passed a short act, appointing local boards of health in the different parishes, and authorising the issue of 5000*l.*, or less, in island notes, to put such boards in funds to carry out the sanatory regulations. After the enactment of this law, the Legislature, with the sanction of the Governor, adjourned until the 19th of November. Commercial matters were quite unsettled; indeed, a general gloom was spread over all interests and all classes. The Governor had issued a proclamation, ordering that a day of general prayer and humiliation should take place on the 1st of November.

From the other *West India Colonies* the news is not important. In Trinidad, Barbadoes, and Antigua the weather is described as remarkably fine, and the crops extremely promising.

The city of Fredericton, *New Brunswick*, was desolated by a dreadful fire on the 11th instant. Upwards of one-half of the city, it is stated, is burnt, and above 3000 people rendered houseless. Few particulars have as yet been given.

The intelligence from the *Cape of Good Hope* is to the 26th of September. The arrival of the Queen's letters patent for constituting a Local Government had excited much dissension.

The Legislative Council was opened on the 6th September. Sir Andries Stockenstrom, Mr. Brand, Mr. E. W. Reitz, Mr. Fairbairn, and Mr. Godlonton took their seats as five of the six members nominated in conformity with the votes of the municipalities and the divisional road boards of the colony. Mr. Cocks took his seat as the Governor's nominee. The election qualification of the members of the Council afforded the first point for discussion. The officials proposed a property qualification of 2000*l.* above all encumbrances; the popular members rejected any property qualifica-

tion, and proposed that the members of the Council should be chosen by "the combined votes of all persons possessing the electoral franchise in the whole colony," —arguing that the possession of the confidence of so vast and varied a constituency would be a qualification higher than the ownership of 2000*l.* or even 4000*l.* fixed property. The popular proposal was supported only by the elected members, Stockenstrom, Fairbairn, Brand, and Reitz: Mr. Godlonton joined the officials, and made the division against it one of seven to four. By a similar vote the property qualification was affirmed; and it was resolved that the members of Council should be elected for ten years. On the 20th September, the secretary of government having presented some drafts of ordinances for consideration, Sir Andries Stockenstrom moved as an amendment, that the ordinances for constituting the local parliament should be proceeded with till completed and passed, before any others be taken up. He was supported by the same three popular members who before sided with him: Mr. Godlonton again joining the officials, he was beaten by seven to four, and a resolution the reverse of that which he had moved was affirmed. Sir Andries handed in a paper of "reasons for dissent," signed by himself, Mr. Fairbairn, Mr. Brand, and Mr. Reitz: he and those gentlemen then tendered the resignation of their seats in the Council, and retired.

On the 21st September, the representatives who had resigned issued a joint letter to their constituents, assuring them, that within a few days some proposal would be publicly submitted for bringing their wishes explicitly before the Queen, the parliament and the people of England.

The accounts from *New South Wales* reach the 30th of July. The Legislative Council at Sydney was in full session, and applying itself to measures of a useful and practical character, some of them rendered necessary by the exigency of peculiar circumstances, and others consequent upon the rapid advancement of the colony in population and commercial prosperity. The question of steam communication with England was brought before the Council by Mr. Donaldson, in a series of resolutions which excited an animated and interesting discussion, in the course of which the several speakers were unanimous in condemning the tardiness of her Majesty's government in completing the necessary arrangements. The subject was referred to a select committee, with an instruction to report upon the propriety of withdrawing the vote of 6000*l.* per annum, already placed at the disposal of the Executive, and offering it as a bonus open to private competition. A select committee of the Legislative Council was also appointed to inquire and report upon the expediency of forming a settlement at Cape York, on the north-west coast of New Holland, or in the immediate neighbourhood. Its eligibility has long been the subject of investigation and favourable recommendation by naval surveyors, and it is expected that a staff of government surveyors will be speedily despatched to the projected colony. The geographical position of Cape York is such as is said to render its occupation an object of paramount importance. The mover of the resolution in reference to the proposed settlement was Mr. Nicholls, a native of New South Wales, born of European parents; and the conclusion of his speech affords gratifying evidence of the feelings entertained by that class of the community towards the mother-country. Such a settlement (he observed) would undoubtedly be another step in the progress of civilisation—another outpost of the great Australian nation which was destined to perpetuate the religion and the language of the Anglo-Saxon race in the southern hemisphere. It was by such steps as these—by pacific triumphs—by establishing educational institutions, and by fostering commercial enterprise, that Australia would become great, and never by the arms of its children being turned against their forefathers.

Prince Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein, travelling as Lieutenant Gronwold, and accompanied by Captain Stanley Carr, a British officer, had arrived at Sydney from Port Philip, and was a guest at Government House. It was expected that the young prince would shortly return to Europe by the way of India.

The *New Zealand* papers have been received to the 12th of June. They announce the return of Capt. Imprey and party to the Wairau, from an expedition undertaken with a view to find a road to Port Cooper. They went about 120 miles up the country in a southerly direction, crossing several streams, all falling into the river between the White Bluff and Cape Campbell. They discovered an opening into the Port Cooper plains, but a heavy fall of snow compelled them to return. They entertain no doubt, however, that a fair road for drays may be made between the Wairau and Port Cooper. The party saw two birds standing each five feet high, supposed to be emus, and made several interesting botanical discoveries. They report the country over which they travelled as eligible for sheep runs and cattle stations, and some of it as well wooded.

A letter, dated Nelson, 16th May, states that the accession to the population of the settlement, received by the Lady Nugent, had been most opportune.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

The work of *Emigration* goes on rapidly from the west and south of Ireland. In the end of October a crowd of peasants passed through Athlone on their way to the New World. The local paper states that they came from the village of Clonoron, about two miles distant, and had been but a few days previously evicted from their holdings. While going through the town they were cheering and shouting, and appeared in the best possible humour. On inquiry as to the cause of their unusual mirth, it was ascertained to have arisen from the circumstance of their having received a large sum of money from their friends in America, which came to hand on the very morning they were ejected from their cabins.

A remarkable case of *Successful Emigration* is that of Mr. James Wilson, a native of Caithness, who lately arrived in England from Australia. Two-and-twenty years ago he landed as a young emigrant at Van Diemen's Land with 50*s.* in his pocket; fifteen years ago he crossed over to Port Philip, when there were only two huts in that now flourishing colony, and there he has remained ever since. He is the largest individual sheep farmer in the colony, being the owner of 30,000 sheep, and land sufficient, reckoning, as he does, an acre to a sheep, to feed 60,000. He is now worth 3000*l.* a-year. His visit to England is to see the old country once more, when he purposes to pass the remainder of his life in South Australia.

Intelligence has been received of the arrival in Australia of the first parties of *Female Emigrants* despatched by the Committee of the Female Emigration Fund. The ship Culloden, with a party of 38 girls, arrived, all well, at Port Philip on the 6th of July; the ship Duke of Portland, with 65 on board, arrived, all well, at Adelaide, on the 2d day of August. The young women are stated to have behaved with great propriety during their passage out, and to have had good health throughout their voyages. The most favourable testimony is borne to the good conduct of those in charge of the emigrants, and to the well working of the arrangements which were made by the committee here on their behalf. Both at Melbourne and at Adelaide this immigration appears to have been very favourably regarded by the colonists. Of the 38 landed at Port Philip on the 8th of July, it appears by the Melbourne papers that 31 were engaged as servants at wages varying from 12*l.* to 20*l.* a year before the evening of the 10th, and subsequent advices state that every one of the girls had obtained employment. All the girls landed at Adelaide had secured employment at fair wages within four days after arrival. The ladies' committee, who provided for the reception of the young women at Port Philip, appear to have been most favourably impressed by their appearance and demeanour; and one of the Melbourne papers says, "They appear to belong to a class of immigrants peculiarly adapted to this country, being young, healthy, and intelligent, and apparently possessed of that happy buoyancy of mind, and that hearty determination of purpose, that will enable them to act well their part in any of the many situations of usefulness which lie so invitingly before them."

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

PRUSSIA with twice three hundred thousand men has accomplished the great feat of marching up a hill and marching down again. She has shown all her teeth, that the world may perceive she is unable or indisposed to bite with them. Industry and commerce have been suspended, the workshop and the farm have been deserted, all the ordinary hopes and avocations which make up the everyday life of Prussia have received a check of the most disastrous kind; and, as far as yet appears, for no earthly object but to show how eager the king is to obtain the domination of Germany, and how utterly unable and imbecile to accomplish his desire. It remains to be seen whether the people, thus bodily dragged into the conflict, may not take upon themselves at length the authority of ending it.

The French President has delivered a message as meek as Cardinal Wiseman's appeal. He promises nothing less nor more but that he will be a good boy in future, and attend to all the tasks which the Assembly may choose to set him. He is delighted that France should be so prosperous, and is preparing all kinds of things to make her more so. Will the Assembly be so hardhearted as to turn him off when he is so good a boy?

Pio Nono, after dispatching his bull to England, favoured Sardinia with an "allocution." In this document his Holiness adopts all the acts of the Cardinal Archbishop Franzoni, formerly commemorated in this narrative; and distinctly approves of the refusal of the holy sacrament to a dying statesman, who had been active in promoting a law hateful to the Roman See, because favourable to the equal civil rights of priest and layman! Let Lord Beaumont, and other Catholics in England, take warning in time.

The man-hunts continue in America; and a real rebellion has broken out in China. The earth is full of portents of which the issue must be waited quietly. Mr. Webster preaches not only the sacred duty of obedience, but the infamy of resistance, even to the law which creates a property in the bodies and souls of human creatures; but even in quiet and stationary China, it would seem, and with little more than tariffs and duties at issue, a termination is apt to come, sooner or later, to these duties of obedience and penalties of resistance; and Mr. Webster may yet live to discover that there are inhuman laws which carry with them no obligation of human acquiescence or submission, even for a day.

The *National Assembly of France* met on the 11th. On the following day it chose its officers. M. Dupin was elected President, by 383 votes out of 594 present; the other votes being divided between M. Mathieu de la Drome and two or three more. M. Dupin took the chair, and immediately declared M. Baroche, the Minister of the Interior, to be in possession of the tribune. M. Baroche proceeded at once to read the "Message of the President of the Republic; presenting, in virtue of the 52d article of the Constitution, the *exposé* of the general state affairs of the French Republic, addressed to the Legislative Assembly in the session of the 12th November, 1850." The Message treats its subjects under the headings of Interior, Finances, Public Works, Agriculture and Commerce, Justice, Public Instruction and Religious Worship, War, Marine, and a concluding *Resumé*.

Under all these branches the view given of public affairs is highly favourable. In the Interior, confidence and tranquillity have been restored. The finances progress favourably; international commerce has been raised; and everything concurs in warranting the hope that the deficit of 1850 will be sensibly diminished, and that the equilibrium announced for 1851 will be realised. Great reductions are making both in the army and navy. Foreign relations are satisfactory. The benefit to the French flag of the liberalised navigation-law of England is acknowledged; and hopes are expressed that pending negotiations will end in arrangements still more in conformity with the interests of the two countries.

The reading of the Message was listened to with fixed attention, and the closing passages called forth loud applause. The favourable impression made by the Message had even increased on the 13th. Twelve hundred copies were posted up in the different quarters of Paris, by orders of the Prefect of Police; and 37,000 copies were sent to the provincial communes.

At the commencement of the sitting on the 13th, the result of the ballot for the vice-presidents was announced. MM. Daru, Léon Faucher, Benoist d'Azy, and General Bedeau were all re-elected and proclaimed vice presidents. The old secretaries, MM. Arnauld (de l'Arriège), Lacase, Chapot, Heckeren, Beraud, and Peupin were also re-elected. The business transacted was not of public interest, except perhaps the motion made by M. Antony Thouret, who proposed that the prorogation committee should deposit what it has drawn up on the incidents which have created so much agitation in the course of the vacation, and that the minutes of the different meetings of the committee should be printed and distributed. The motion was seconded by another Montagnard (M. Baudin), but was received with loud expressions of disapprobation by the majority. M. Odilon Barrot then rose and said that the prorogation committee did not consider it necessary to present a report, and that he had therefore no further explanations to give on the subject. He terminated by moving the order of the day, which was voted by an immense majority. The House then rose.

The subsequent business of the Chamber has hitherto been of little interest.

A serious occurrence has taken place in a small town of about 5000 inhabitants, called Bourg St. Audéol, in the Ardèche. On the morning of the 18th the Attorney-General of the department, accompanied by 90 men, comprising gendarmerie and troops of the line, proceeded to effect the arrest of a person named Morrice, Deputy-Mayor of the town, on a charge of being implicated in the Lyons affair. The arrest was effected; but as they were escorting him the troops were followed by a large crowd, and when they were about to issue from the streets to the country, they found their way stopped by barricades, from behind which they were received with a volley of stones and some musket shots. The soldiers fixed bayonets and moved steadily on, while those who were mounted were preparing to leap the barricade, when the lieutenant who commanded the gendarmerie was struck by a bullet which broke his under jaw. The troops halted for an instant, loaded with ball, fired a volley at the assailants, charged, swept in an instant the barrier before them, and scattered the infuriated rabble in all directions. One of the insurgents lay dead behind the barricades, and several wounded. The gendarmes arrested seven, and led them off with the prisoner to rescue whom the revolt was got up.

The intelligence from *Germany* during the past month has constantly fluctuated between peace and war; and the innumerable conferences and negotiations between Prussia, Austria, Russia, and the smaller German states, have as yet led to no ascertained results. In consequence of the failure of Count Brandenburgh, the Prussian Minister, to effect an amicable arrangement with Austria, the whole Prussian army has been placed on a war footing and the landwehr has been called out.

The Prussian chambers were opened on the 21st by the King. The following is the portion of the Royal

speech which relates to the different branches of the German question:

"A full account of the use made of the credit of 18,000,000 thalers, voted for military purposes, will be laid before you.

"The dangers by which you were induced to grant that credit have not yet been removed. My pacific relations to the great Powers of Europe have not indeed been interrupted; but, unhappily, it has not been possible to carry into effect my intention to create for the German States a Constitution equal to their necessities. I cling to the idea which was the foundation of my efforts, in firm hope in the future; but I will only again attempt its realisation on new grounds, when a decision has been come to on the future organisation of the German Bund.

"I hope that the negotiations on this subject will soon lead to a successful result.

"The peace with Denmark is concluded and ratified; but it has not been possible as yet to carry it in all points into effect.

"In a neighbouring German State disputes of the most irreconcileable character have taken place. An attempt to interfere, made from one side only, threatened to violate the rights of Prussia, and has led to misunderstandings in which we are directly involved. Our representations, founded on the conditions of our geographical and military position, did not meet with proper attention on the part of the Sovereign of the State and his allies. Besides this, concentrations of troops were made close on our frontiers, in places distant from the scene of those embarrassments, by which the security of the monarchy was menaced. Then I could no longer defer what had been long postponed. I have called out the whole warlike power of the land, and I see with pride and joy that all my people capable of bearing arms have risen like one man, and joined themselves to my brave and faithful army.

"In a short time we shall stand more strongly armed than at any period of old or modern time. We do not seek war; we wish to lessen no one's rights, or force our proposals on any one; but we require an organisation of collective Germany, consistent with our present position in Germany and in Europe, and commensurate with the sum of the rights that God has placed in our hands. We have a good right; that we will defend, and we will remain in powerful preparation, under our weapons, till we are certain it has obtained recognition.

"This we owe to Prussia and to Germany.

"I hope that our rising will be sufficient to assert our right; if this is attained, it is without danger to the peace of Europe, for my people are reasonable in the same degree as they are strong.

"It is for you, gentlemen, to furnish me with the means by which this end is to be secured. I lament the sacrifices which on this account must be imposed on the nation, but I know, gentlemen, that your zeal will not be behind that of the whole people. You will furnish a proof that our Constitution, to which I inviolably adhere, hinders not, but on the contrary promotes strength of action in Prussia.

"And as all party spirit has been merged in the enthusiasm of the moment—as the people and the army feel themselves united with me and each other—you too, the representatives of this admirable people, will stand by me, unanimous and firm, in the dangers of the present.

"Well then, let our watchwords be, union in fidelity, confidence with God in one spirit—in the real old Prussian spirit.

"God has often and largely helped us with it, and will help us still further.—Such is my trust."

The latest accounts from Berlin state that the Emperor of Russia has reiterated his demand for the immediate intervention in Schleswig Holstein, and threatened Prussia with his army if she opposes it. The Czar would not object, however, to the pacification being accomplished by Prussia.

The Austrians are reported to be in Saxony.

Letters from Munich state that the Hessian question will be settled by mutual declarations.

The sending of provisions from Lower Hesse to the neighbourhood of Fulda has been forbidden by the commander of the Prussian troops.

The *Queen of Spain* in person opened Cortes on the 31st October. The royal speech was of unusual length. It announced the happy resumption of diplomatic relations with Great Britain in a manner worthy of both nations; proudly referred to the brilliant results of its intervention on behalf of the Pope, and to the expedition of foreign pirates in Cuba, who had been obliged to fly before the loyalty of the population and the resolution of the forces; it referred to considerable reforms in the administration of roads and institutions, in the conduct of prison discipline, and in the removal of obstacles to agricultural and commercial industry; and it promised schemes for the definite settlement of the public debt, and for the settlement of the fueros of the Basque Provinces.

The accounts from *Constantinople* mention the *Destruction of the Flag-ship* of the Turkish Admiral, with the loss of 500 men. She was a beautiful ninety-gun ship, and was moored in the harbour, near the Arsenal; on either side of her lay a three-decker or a ninety-gun ship. At half-past 9 on the 24th of October, without any kind of warning, or anything having occurred to excite suspicion, the powder in her magazine ignited, no one knows how, and she blew up; nor were there more than a dozen barrels of powder on board. The explosion was just sufficient to separate her sides and lift her decks. She opened forwards, broke in the middle, and sunk bodily. It was all over in three minutes. Five hundred men perished with her, including 16 officers; 163 men have been saved, of whom 43 are badly wounded. Her band was playing when the explosion took place.

A letter from *Aleppo*, of the 26th of October, gives an account of *a Dreadful Massacre* of the Christian population by the Moslems; a sudden outbreak, it appears, of fanaticism. On the night of the 16th numerous armed bands of Moslem people forcibly entered the dwellings of the Christians inhabiting three-quarters of the town called Sulibi and Fedida, plundering every house of what it possessed; and, whenever the least resistance was shown, wounding and murdering the inmates. On the 17th the same scenes continued to be perpetrated. The roads everywhere leading from the above quarters were thronged with Christians, men, women, and children all hurrying away in the terror with which they were inspired by the burning of their churches, the desecration of their homes, the spoliation of their wealth, the destruction of their property, the dishonour of their wives and maidens, and the ruthless slaughter of their relatives. All these atrocities were committed in broad daylight, and under the eyes of Turkish soldiery; there were none to prevent these ruffians from accomplishing their horrible designs on an inoffensive people. Three handsome churches, worth upwards of 25,000*l.*, were burnt; five churches have been plundered; an invaluable library, containing ancient Syrian manuscripts, destroyed: three priests and several other Christians were killed; many, among whom is the Syrian Bishop, a highly respected octogenarian, were wounded, and some of them afterwards died. The principal Christian quarters, such as Sulibi, Fedida, Toomayat, Haret, Il Un Kabobt, Tudrebee, Bowabet, Butrosse, Bowabel Aset, Essa il Khul, were sacked. The loss of property is estimated at nearly a million sterling. In the space of 24 hours several hundred families, comprising the most respectable native Christians of Aleppo, and consisting altogether of about 7,000 individuals (Rayahs) have been rendered houseless.

On the morning of the 17th the Pasha hastily removed to the military barracks, where, surrounded by the troops, he remained an almost passive spectator of what was going forward in the town beneath. General Bem pledged his life to stop the persecution if he were allowed a few pieces of artillery and 500 soldiers, but the Pasha would not grant them, on the plea that they would prove insufficient. He rather preferred to yield to popular fanaticism than set Moslem to fight Moslem in defence of the Christians. At the date of the account, ten days had elapsed since the Christians fled from their houses, and none had yet ventured to return to them. The khans were full of the fugitives—680 in one, 2200

in another, 700 in a third, 400 to 500 in a fourth; and in the other 11 or 12 khans there were as many as made up the number of 7000. Honourable mention is made of the conduct of M. Lesseps, the French Consul, who distinguished himself in his unceasing endeavours to provide for the wants of the distressed, of whom he received in his Consulate upwards of 200, and the personal requirements of about 600 others he daily supplied. An account three days later states that a reinforcement of troops had arrived, that the fugitives were beginning to return to their homes, and that an appearance of tranquillity was restored, though there was still a strong undercurrent of evil.

The latest accounts from *New York* are dated the 15th instant. The excitement caused by the operation of the Fugitive Slaves Bill still continued, and serious disturbances had taken place at Philadelphia and other places. On the other hand, a great meeting had been held in New York, at which leading citizens expressed their regret that a measure regarded by the greatest statesmen as a portion of a fair compromise, and declared by them to be strictly constitutional, should now be denounced as unjust and unconstitutional, and as warranting resistance by physical force. A letter from Mr. Daniel Webster gave his warm adherence to the resolutions.

"The measure," he said, "is not such a measure as I had prepared before I had left the Senate, and which, of course, I should have supported if I had remained in the Senate. But it received the proper sanction of the two Houses of Congress and the President of the United States. It is the law of the land, and as such is to be respected and obeyed by all good citizens. I have heard no man whose opinion is worth regarding deny its constitutionality; and those who counsel violent resistance to it, counsel that which, if it take place, is sure to lead to bloodshed and to the commission of capital offences. It remains to be seen how far the deluded and the deluders will go on in this career of faction, folly, and crime."

This demonstration at New York is said to have had much influence on public opinion in the Northern States.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE Laurel has been bestowed on Alfred Tennyson, and could not have had a worthier recipient. It would be well if the *detur digniori* could be as certainly put in practice in every office. It is understood that the offer was accompanied with an intimation that the usual birthday odes had been now for some years discontinued; and whether or not this implies that they will not in future be expected, it is yet satisfactory to feel that an ancient office which directly connects the highest person in the realm with its literature is not altogether abolished. Certainly the salary was not worth saving. Originally it was a hundred marks, which James the First raised to a hundred pounds and a tierce of canary, for poor old Ben Jonson's sake. The tierce of canary is now commuted to some five-and-twenty pounds; but, nevertheless, what with income-tax, land-tax, pension-fees, and other fees and taxes, the whole remuneration is little more than ninety pounds. Another appointment of the past month has given equal satisfaction. Sir Charles Eastlake is the new president of the Royal Academy, his talents and accomplishments having marked him out without a competitor for that distinction.

The publication of new works has been more active than usual, but very few books of importance are discoverable among them. Not a small proportion have been pamphlets and treatises connected with the current agitation against popery, of which it would be a waste of space even to transcribe the titles.

Miss Strickland has commenced a series of *Lives of the Queens of Scotland* in the manner of her book about the English queens, and with promise of an equal amount of gossiping detail. A certain Baroness Von Beck has published *Personal Adventures in Hungary* during the late civil war, proving herself a heroine of some of the most daring attempts and most marvellous escapes on record. Another lady has given us a novel of earnest and highly-wrought incident called *Olive*. Nor will it be much out of place to conclude this list of feminine achievements with the mention of a book which Sir Francis Head has dedicated to the ladies, on the *Defenceless State of England*. Its object is to show what Lord Ellesmere formerly demonstrated, that if a French army resolves to invade England, it can easily do it; and when it reaches London, which there is nothing to prevent, it will only have to walk in at one end while everybody else is marching out at the other.

Lord Ellesmere himself has been meanwhile engaged in the less alarming work of writing an agreeable introduction to a translation of Michel Amari's *War of the Sicilian Vespers*. Southey's *Life and Correspondence* has been brought to a completion. A clever little compilation of *Narratives of Shipwrecks of the Royal Navy*, between 1793 and 1849, has been issued in one volume. Another book has been added to the many that may now be consulted for the terrors and enjoyments of *Sierra Leone*. A treatise on the *Distribution of Wealth*, by a Mr. Thompson, has been disinterred from its sleep of a quarter of a century to show (which was quite needless) that the French Socialists have had English precursors. And from a profound rest of nigh fourteen hundred years the *Makamet* of Hariri has just been awakened by the translation of Mr. Preston, an able English scholar. The design of this Eastern classic was to display the vast resources of Arabic in a series of rhythmical and metrical anecdotes containing all the riches of the language, and illustrating its rare words, proverbs, and figurative and enigmatic expressions. From this the character of its interest may be estimated, as well as those difficulties of translation which Mr. Preston has mastered admirably.

The fact that the *Keepsake* has appeared once more may still interest some readers. A sort of ghost of the book of beauty in the shape of *A Court Album* which visits us at the same time, and another volume of *The Drawing-room Scrap Book*, are all of the once gay and crowded ranks of "Annuals" which appear to have survived the revolution in this kind of literature. Its passing away leaves nothing to regret.

Mr. Macready is giving a series, or rather completing the series which was interrupted by ill-health last year, of farewell performances at the Haymarket Theatre. He has appeared, during the month, in all his principal characters, and has been received by crowded audiences with the utmost enthusiasm.

The principal dramatic novelties produced during the month have been Marston's play, *Philip of France and Marie de Meranie*, at the Olympic; Slous's play, *The Templar*, at the Princess's; Mr. Lemon's farce, *The School for Tigers*, and Messrs. Brough's melo-drama, *Jessie Gray*, at the Adelphi; and *The White Hood* at the Lyceum.

Webster's tragedy, *The Duchess of Malfi*, has been revived at Sadler's Wells, adapted to the modern stage by Mr. Horne.

The Marylebone Theatre has re-opened under the management of Mr. Joseph Stammers.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of Oct. 29. WILLIAM ALSOP, Plymouth, potter.—ANDREW LITTLE, York, draper.—MICHAEL LORD, Lower-Bagden, Lancashire, sheep salesman.—JAMES PORTER, High-street, Camden-town, upholsterer.—HENRY GEORGE STAHLSCHMIDT, Fenchurch-street, City, merchant.—THOMAS WOODROFFE, Webb's-county-terrace, New-Kent-road, druggist.

Nov. 1. WILLIAM GIBBS, Throgmorton-street, City, stockbroker.—EPHRAIM GWALTER, Plaistow, Essex, horse dealer.—ADOLPHUS MILLER, Emsworth, Hampshire, rope-maker.—HENRY BROOKE MURIEL, Brighton, Sussex, chemist.—THOMAS SKAM, Wandsworth-road, and Battersea, Surrey, builder.—HUGH SNELLING, Brighton, Sussex, grocer.—SAMUEL ALFRED WARNER, Southampton-street, Strand, projectile manufacturer.

Nov. 5. JOHN BEEBY, Luton, and Dunstable, Bedfordshire, salt merchant.—CHARLES BRADBY, Rood-lane, Fenchurch-street, City, merchant.—JAMES CLARKE, Old-Broad-street, City, coal merchant.—WILLIAM COLES, Harmer-street, Milton-next-Gravesend, pastrycook.—ALFRED FRENCH, East-Grinstead, Sussex, plumber.—JAMES GILSTON, Leeds, woollen-draper.—ABRAHAM HOOLEY, Macclesfield, silk manufacturer.—JOHN LIVESEY, and JOHN PRIMM, New-Lenton, Nottinghamshire, lace makers.—ROBERT DUTTON REEVES, and RICHARD HERDMAN DAWSON, Liverpool, wine and spirit dealers.—WILLIAM TAYLOR, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, auctioneer.

Nov. 8. ALEXANDER BLACK, Wellington-street-north, Covent-garden, bookseller—WILLIAM COLES, Milton-next-Gravesend, pastrycook.—ROBERT GARTON, Kingston-upon-Hull, boot and shoe maker.—JOHN ROWBOTHAM, Sutton, Cheshire, silk manufacturer.—GEORGE CLIVE SEARLE, Tyndale-place, Islington, apothecary.

Nov. 12. THOMAS BROWN, Preston, Lancashire, draper.—JOHN LIPTROTT FINDLEY, jun., Birmingham, tailor.—WILLIAM HARRISON, Tynemouth, Northumberland, merchant.—HENRY HIGGINS, Bilston, Staffordshire, grocer.—GEORGE STILWELL JENKS, Hammersmith, cheesemonger.—WILLIAM SIMPSON, Manchester, starch manufacturer.—ROBERT STORR, Corby, Lincolnshire.—WILLIAM TREGO, Coleman-street, City, builder.—SILVANUS VICK, Brecon, victualler.

Nov. 15. JAMES AMOS, Coventry, Warwickshire, trimming manufacturer.—JOHN FREDERICK BRETT, Gateshead, Durham, tailor.—WILLIAM CARTER, High-street, Southwark, boot and shoe maker.—GEORGE HAND, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, grocer.—WILLIAM FRANCIS HARRIS, Friday-street, Cheapside, City, Manchester warehouseman.—WILLIAM RANDALL, Manchester, calico printer.—JOSEPH WATKINS, Belmont-row, Vauxhall, draper.—JOHN WHITE, Birmingham, hay and straw dealer.

Nov. 19. WILLIAM BENNETT, jun., Worley Wigan, Worcestershire, brick-maker.—EDWARD BREWSTER, Hand-court, City, printer.—JAMES BUTTFIELD, Newbury, Berkshire, grocer.—ABRAHAM CHADWICK, Burnedge and Fair View, Lancashire, cotton-spinner.—EDMUND CHADWICK, Manchester, starch manufacturer.—ANN ELIZABETH HICKMAN, Cannon-road, St. George's in-the-east, and MOSES JOHN HICKMAN, Princes-place, St. George's-in-the-east, undertakers.—WILLIAM NEGUS, Bagnigge-wells-road, victualler.—JOSEPH SMITH, Liverpool, haberdasher.—THOMAS TUFFIELD, Hoxton-old-town, tallow-chandler.

Nov. 22. ARTHUR BEARD, Liverpool, wine merchant.—WILLIAM BRADBURN, Shiffnal, Shropshire, corn-dealer.—GEORGE AUGUSTUS CLARE, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, house decorator.—ROBERT GIBSON, York, ironmonger.—EDWARD KEDGES, Chilton Foliatt, Wiltshire, builder.—WILLIAM HUZE, Stockport, Cheshire, draper.—WILLIAM KING, Gravesend, Kent, draper.—EDWARD LEIGH, Glossop, Derbyshire, cotton-manufacturer.—ROBERT MILES, Pontypridd, Glamorganshire, grocer.—JOHN SIMPSON, Manchester, grocer.—FRANCOIS FELIX VOUILLON, Princess- street, Grosvenor-square, court milliner.

Nov. 26. EDWARD BREWSTER and EDWARD WEST, Hand-court, Dowgate, printers.—ROBERT DEVER, Cornhill, City, cook and confectioner.—WILLIAM GOODCHILD SHIPLEY, Market-row, Oxford-street, corn dealer.—HENRY JOHNSON, Bishopsgate-street-without, City, tea-dealer.—WILLIAM SMITH, Canal-road, Kingsland, timber merchant.—JAMES HOPEWELL BROWN, Norwich, wine and spirit merchant.—GEORGE AUGUSTUS DAVIES, Skinner-street, City, distiller.—RICHARD PEACOCK, Ladbroke-grove, Notting-hill, plumber.—CHARLES MACKENZIE, Lower-Crown-street, Westminster, bookbinder.—HENRY RICHARD HOLLOWAY, Ryde, Isle of Wight, bookseller.—DAVID DOUGLAS, Charlton-upon-Medlock, Lancashire, draper.—JAMES MATHISON, Ferry-hill, Durham, builder.—WILLIAM STARKEY, Huddersfield, woolstapler.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

Oct. 21. JAMES VILLAR, Leckhampton and Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, maltster.

Nov. 12. GEORGE PRICE HILL, Fleet-street, City, common carrier, Sept. 11.

THE STOCK AND SHARE MARKETS.

City, Nov 28.

The Stock Markets have been subject to a good deal of movement this month, principally owing to considerations arising out of the aspect of Continental politics. On the 29th ult., Consols were depressed to 96⅝, and though the price afterwards recovered, and touched 97⅞ on the 6th; the uneasiness caused by the extensive military preparations on the Continent caused a further heavy fall, the price receding to 96 on the 11th. More firmness then became apparent, and the quotation on the 22nd stood at 97¼; but the market has since been heavier. To day's quotation is 96¾ to ⅞.

The Railway Share Market has been steady, with a fair amount of business going forward; this description of investment appearing to attract more attention of late. As regards prices, the quotations ruling to day, show a rise over last month of from 2 to 4 per cent. for most of the leading stocks.

STOCKS.

	Prices during the Month.		
	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols	9⅝	96	96⅞
Three per Cent. Reduced	9⅞	95¼	96⅛
Three and a quarter per Cents.	9¾	97	97⅞
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860	⅞	7¾	7¾
Bank Stock	21½	211	211
India Stock	27	268	268½
South Sea Stock	10¾	105¾	106¼
Exchequer Bills	71*s.* prm.	64*s.* prm.	68*s.* prm.
India Bonds	91*s.*prm.	85*s.* prm.	86*s.* prm.

RAILWAYS.

Paid.		Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
100	Bristol and Exeter	70	66	70
50	Caledonian	10½	8	10
20	Eastern Counties	6½	5⅞	6
24	Great Northern	15	13¾	15
100	Great North of England.	245	242	242
100	Great Western	73¼	68½	72½
50	Hull and Selby	98½	98	98
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	49⅝	45½	49
50	Leeds and Bradford	95	94½	94½
100	London and Brighton	85¼	83¾	85¼
100	London and North Western	119½	116½	119¼
100	London and S. Western	69¾	67	69¼
100	Midland	43	40¼	42¾
17½	North Staffordshire	8½	7⅛	8½
30	South Eastern	20½	19¼	20⅛
25	York, Newcastle, and Berwick	17½	16	17
50	York and North Midland	23½	21½	23

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Nov. 26.

The arrivals of English wheat have been upon a limited scale during the month, and in consequence holders have been firm, and have obtained rather better rates, though no quotable advance has been established. Of foreign wheat the supplies have also fallen off. The London weekly averages last announced are as follows:—

Wheat, per quarter, 43*s.*
Barley, 26*s.* 9*d.*
Oats, 18*s.* 1*d.*

Flour, Town made, delivered per 80 lb., 37*s.* to 40*s.*

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt.—Waterford, 44*s.* to 45*s.*; Belfast, 42*s.* to 44*s.*
Beef, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*
Butter, per cwt., Dorset, 82*s.* to 86*s.*; Cork, 74*s.*; Friesland, 82*s.* to 94*s.*; Fresh, per lb., 10*d.* to 1*s.*
Cheese, per cwt., Cheshire, 50*s.* to 74*s.*; Wiltshire, double, 50*s.* to 58*s.*; Edam, 44*s.* to 45*s.*
Eggs, English, per 120, 8*s.* 6*d.*;

Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 74*s.* to 84*s.*; Irish, 60*s.* to 68*s.*;
Lamb, per 8 lbs., 5*s.* 4*d.*
Mutton, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*
Potatoes, per ton.—Yorkshire Prince Regent's, 70*s.* to 80*s.*; Scotch, 50*s.* to 65*s.*;
Pork, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 8*d.* to 4*s.*
Veal, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt.—Grenada, 40*s.* to 48*s.*
Coffee, per cwt.—Good ord. native Ceylon, 54*s.*; good ord. Jamaica, 44*s.* to 46*s.*; Bahia, 40*s.* to 48*s.*
Rice, per cwt.—Carolina, 21*s.* to 26*s.*; Bengal, 9*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.*

Sago, per cwt.—Pearl, 20*s.* 6*d.* to 26*s.*
Sugar, per cwt.—Brown lumps, 50*s.* 6*d.* to 51*s.*; good brown Jamaica, 37*s.* 6*d.* to 38*s.*
Tea, per lb.—Good ord. Congou, 1*s.* 1*d.*; full flavoured Souchong, 1*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.*; Hyson, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*

Candles, per 12 lbs., 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*; Coals, per ton, Wallsend, 13*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.* 9*d.*

OILS.

Pale Seal, per ton, 39*l.*
Sperm, 87*l.* to 88*l.*

Olive, Gallipoli, 44*l.*
Linseed, 31*s.* 9*d.* to 32*s.*

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Monthly Supplement to "*HOUSEHOLD WORDS*," *Conducted by CHARLES DICKENS.*

THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1850.] FROM THE 29TH NOVEMBER TO THE 28TH DECEMBER. [PRICE 2*d*.

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

THE Religious Agitation has continued during the month with little abatement, but the pretensions of his Holiness at Rome have not shared so largely in it as those of some smaller popes here in England. Mr. Bennett has been turned out of St. Barnabas by the Bishop of London. Not, however, for denying the supremacy of the Crown in spiritual affairs or discipline; not for asserting the Church's infallibility and supremacy; not for calling the Protestant Establishment a statesman's tool; not for the identification, in short, in all material respects, of the teaching of the church of St. Barnabas with that of the Church of Rome: but for a certain indiscreet excess in gestures, postures, ceremonies, forms, and intonations, which seemed to the Bishop to be "carrying things too far." There is nothing in the decision pronounced against this refractory teacher by his diocesan, which in any manner touches the questions most gravely in issue between the Protestant Church and her Romanising ministers. If other than the mere forms are to be grappled with, it must be by a mode of censure far other than Doctor Blomfield's. Happily, however, it is the substance of the thing called Tractarianism, and not its mere "limbs and flourishes," against which the people generally are now eager and aroused; and a beginning of the work most needful to be transacted at the present time has been already made. A lay society has been formed in Plymouth, to promote and bring about a reformation of the Church services, a better administration of ecclesiastical revenues, and improvement of the discipline of the Church. Such societies should be formed everywhere; and their invariable bases should be a reassertion of the right of private judgment, and a claim of increased power for the laity in matters ecclesiastical.

These are the views and efforts which will alone save us, as Protestants, from the mischiefs incident more or less to all religious agitation; and without which there is even yet a danger that the present excitement may leave us exposed to a worse intolerance than that against which it has protested. In regard to Roman Catholicism itself, whatever legislation may be found expedient or necessary, it will be assuredly not less so to keep in mind the just distinction between what may fairly warrant interference, and what cannot without danger be meddled with. That distinction is, not to prohibit the spiritual authority of the Pope in any extent of unrestricted communication that may be called for by full toleration of the profession and exercise of the Roman Catholic religion in England; but at the same time so to legislate, that this papal authority shall be kept really and strictly spiritual, that its mandates shall not be suffered to run co-ordinate in civil matters, such as that of education, with those of the head of the state, and that all its missives which in any manner trench on the temporal province shall be rendered subject to the temporal laws.

Sir Edward Sugden has decisively pronounced that the Papal brief of September exposes its promulgators to legal penalties, though he has failed to explain what they are; but be they small or great, it is a different kind of protection that true Protestants in England now sorely need. They pray for sound education; and against all "high" priests who would oppose it, whether English or Roman. It may be true that Pio Nono impertinently claims spiritual headship in England, and that his emissaries convene synods of Thurles practically to enforce his claim; but it is not less true that Henry of Exeter insolently refuses to address the Queen as the "earthly head of the Church in this kingdom," and defies and obstructs her Privy Council in their exertions for popular education. The legislation that reaches not both these evils, will leave the most deeply-felt practical grievance untouched. Now or never, guarantees must be obtained for educational as well as religious freedom. Now must be commenced, if ever, that good work, of which a thorough reform of both universities will go far to the glorious completion.

Mr. Sewell, well knowing this, has made a feint to draw off the University Commission of Inquiry from Oxford by proposing to turn Oxford itself into a travelling Commission of Instruction. He is not for letting Manchester go to college, but for carrying college to Manchester. He won't have any one come to Oxford to reform its abuses, but he'll consent to carry Oxford anywhere, abuses and all. His scheme is to set up Oxford lecture-rooms all over the country, subject to the control of the far-famed Hebdomadal Board; and, opening these lecture-rooms to people of all sorts of opinions, to reward dutiful attendance thereupon by degrees from travelling examiners. Of which mission the expected advantage evidently is, that it may in time reclaim the barbarous from their objections to Oxford systems and teachers, while it leaves the hallowed place itself quite unpolluted by the heathen, and keeps sacred the mysteries of Isis to Mr. Sewell and his friends. But the bait has not caught; and Mr. Sewell has taken nothing by his motion but the disadvantage of having let slip the not unimportant admission that "the university possesses a large amount of available resources and machinery with which the present state of education conferred by it is by no means commensurate." It is to be hoped that the Ministerial Commission will not relax in its exertions till it bring these means and ends into better correspondence.

Even amidst the religious hubbub have been heard some faint Protectionist cries. Messrs. Spooner and Newdegate have protested at Sutton Colfield against sinking to the condition of the foreigner, to which shawbacon, pondering between his seven shillings a-week and the union next door, cries out Anan!

Mr. Muntz has called attention to the remarkable fact that the manufacturing interest gobbles up a farmer for its supper every night. And Mr. George Frederick Young has vowed at the London Tavern that his neck shall not be bent to the yoke "unresistingly," which seems to promise a tough job to the manufacturing interest if it thinks of gobbling up Mr. Young. However, there is no saying now-a-days what any amount of resistance is worth, seeing that it needs but a square inch of damp sponge to bring even a grizzly bear of the Rocky Mountains under the knife of an operator as merciless as a Bright or a Cobden.

An incident of the month, which deserves record in even this brief retrospect, has been the defeat of the Tenant League agitation in Ireland, at the election for the county Limerick. It is too decisive to admit of any doubt. Failing their own candidate, the Leaguers would gladly have assisted the Protectionists, but the latter was also turned to the right-about, and the Free-trader chosen. This result is important in so far as it goes very unexpectedly to prove that there is some limit to impracticable and mischievous agitation, even in Ireland.

NARRATIVE OF POLITICS.

THE Repeal Association has been *Rebaptised*, and is now denominated the "Royal Catholic and Repeal Association." In the course of the proceedings on the 2nd, Mr. John O'Connell announced that the word "Catholic" was to remain as a prefix until the intended persecution of Lord John Russell and the bigots of England was effectually repelled. In a financial point of view the additional cognomen of "Catholic" appears to have been, so far, a failure, the rent having declined from 14*l.* odd shillings, the previous week's receipts, to 9*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*

The Enthronement of Cardinal Wiseman took place on the 6th, at the church of St. George's, Southwark. The choir commenced chaunting the Hallelujah, and the procession moved up the nave in the direction of the central altar. Foremost was borne the cross, with lighted candles on either side. Then came the Roman Catholic clergy, subject to the new Archdiocesan's jurisdiction, two by two, habited according to their respective ranks and orders. At length the Cardinal himself appeared, wearing a gorgeous mitre and pallium. A canopy, fringed with silk and gold, was borne over his path by the "converts" exclusively. Lastly came the Very Rev. Dr. Doyle, robed in the usual sacrificial vestments, preceded by the Very Rev. Dr. Cox, the Rev. Mr. Cotter, and the Rev. Mr. Daniel, as masters of the ceremony, deacon, and sub-deacon. Having reached the screen which fronts the sanctuary, the Cardinal was led to a small compartment at the left of the principal altar, called the chapel of the Blessed Eucharist, whence, after a brief interval, the procession moved within the sanctuary, Cardinal Wiseman kneeling at the foot of the altar, and the celebrant clergyman ascending its steps, assisted by the deacon and sub-deacon. The customary form of prayer having been read, the mitre, which had been exchanged for a scarlet cap a short time before, was formally placed upon the head of the new Archbishop, whilst the crozier, emblematic of his authority, was also placed in his hands. He was then conducted to the archiepiscopal chair, at the foot of which the whole of the clergy made the usual obeisance—kissing the Cardinal's ring in recognition of his spiritual authority. The solemnities of high mass were then proceeded with, after which the Bull was publicly read, in virtue of which Cardinal Wiseman assumes the archiepiscopal jurisdiction of Westminster. The proceedings closed with the presentation of an address to the new "Archbishop," and an exhortation, in which he impressed upon his clergy the duties and obligations incidental to their important mission.

The following is a translation of *the Papal Bull establishing a Romish Hierarchy in England.* This important document is entitled "Apostolic Letter of our Most Holy Lord by Divine Providence Pope Pius IX., by which the Episcopal Hierarchy in England is restored."

"Ad perpetuam rei memoriam."

"The power of governing the universal Church intrusted by our Lord Jesus Christ to the Roman Pontiff, in the person of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, has maintained for centuries in the Apostolic see the admirable solicitude with which it watches over the welfare of the Catholic religion in all the earth, and provides with zeal for its progress. Thus has been accomplished the design of its Divine founder; who, by establishing a chief, has in his profound wisdom insured the safety of the Church unto the uttermost time. The effect of this solicitude has been felt in most nations, and amongst these is the noble kingdom of England. History proves that after the first ages of the Church, the Christian religion was carried into Great Britain, where it flourished until towards the middle of the fifth century: after the invasion of the Angles and Saxons in that island, government as well as religion fell into the most deplorable state. At once our most holy predecessor Gregory the Great sent the monk Augustine and his followers; then he created a great number of bishops, joined to them a multitude of monks and priests, brought the Anglo-Saxons to religion, and succeeded by his influence in re-establishing and extending the Catholic faith in all that country, which then began to assume the name of England. But to recall more recent facts, nothing seems more evident to us in the history of the Anglican schism of the sixteenth century than the solicitude with which the Roman pontiffs our predecessors succoured and supported by all the means in their power the Catholic religion, then exposed in that kingdom to the greatest dangers and reduced to the last extremities. It is with this object, apart from other means, that so many efforts have been made by the Sovereign Pontiffs, either by their orders or by their approbation, to keep in England men ready and devoted to the support of Catholicism; also that young Catholics endowed by nature might be enabled to come on to the Continent, there to receive an education, and be formed with care in the study of ecclesiastical science, especially in order that, being in sacred orders, they may on their return to their country be able to support their countrymen by the ministry of their word and by the sacraments, and may defend and propagate the true faith.

"But the zeal of our predecessors will perhaps be more clearly admitted as regards what they have done to give the Catholics of England pastors clothed with an episcopal character at a time when a furious and implacable tempest had deprived them of the presence of bishops and their pastoral care. First, the Apostolic letter of Gregory XV., commencing with these words, 'Ecclesia Romana,' and dated the 23rd of March 1623, shows that the Sovereign Pontiff as soon as possible deputed to the government of English and Scotch Catholic Bishops, William Bishop consecrated Bishop of Chalcis, with ample faculties and powers. After the death of Bishop, Urban VIII. renewed this mission in his Apostolic letter dated the 4th of February 1625, addressed to Richard Smith, and conferring on him the bishoprie of Chalcis, and all the powers previously resting on Bishop. It seemed subsequently at the commencement of the reign of James II. that more favourable days were about to dawn upon the Catholic religion. Innocent XI. profited at once by the circumstance; and in 1685 he deputed John Leyburn, Bishop of Adrumede, as Vicar Apostolic for all the kingdom of England. Subsequently, by another Apostolic letter, dated the 30th January 1688, and commencing as follows, 'Super cathedram,' he joined with Leyburn three other Vicars Apostolic, Bishops in partibus; so that all England, under the care of the Apostolic Nuncio in this country, Ferdinand, Archbishop of Amosia, was divided by that Pontiff into four districts; those of London, the West,

the Centre, and the North, which at first were governed by Apostolic Vicars furnished with proper faculties and powers. In the accomplishment of so grave a charge, they received rules and succour either by the decisions of Benedict XIV. in his constitution of the 30th of May 1753, which commences with the words 'Apostolicum ministerium,' or by those of other Pontiffs our predecessors and our Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. This division of all England into four Apostolic Vicarages lasted till the time of Gregory XVI.; who, in his Apostolic letter, 'Muneris Apostolici,' dated the 3rd of July 1840, considering the increase of the Catholic religion in England, and making a new ecclesiastical division of the country, doubled the number of vicarages, and confided the spiritual government of England to the Vicars Apostolic of London, the West, the East, the Centre, Lancaster, York, and the North. The little we have just said proves clearly that our predecessors applied themselves strongly to use all the means their authority gave them to console the Church of England for its immense disgraces, and to work for its resurrection. Having before its eyes, therefore, the good example of our predecessors, and desirous, by imitating them, of fulfilling the duties of the Supreme Apostolate—pressed, besides, to follow the movements of our heart for that portion of the Lord's vineyard—we proposed to ourselves, from the commencement of our pontificate, to pursue a work that was so well begun, and to apply ourselves in the most serious manner to favour every day the development of the Church in this kingdom. For this reason, considering as a whole the state of Catholicism in England—reflecting on the considerable number of Catholics, which keep still increasing—remarking that every day the obstacles are falling off which stood in the way of the extension of the Catholic religion—we have thought that the time was come when the form of ecclesiastical government should be resumed in England such as it exists, freely exists, in other nations, where no particular cause necessitates the ministry of vicars apostolic. We have thought that by the progress of time and things, it was no longer necessary to have the English Catholics governed by vicars apostolic, but, on the contrary, that the changes which had already been made necessitated the ordinary episcopal form of government.

"We have been confirmed in these thoughts by the desires expressed to us by the vicars apostolic in England, as well as by numbers of the clergy and laity distinguished by virtue and rank, and by the wishes of the great majority of English Catholics. In maturing this design, we have not failed to implore the aid of the Almighty and most gracious God, and that he would grant us grace in this weighty affair to resolve upon that which should be most suitable to augment the prosperity of the Church. We have further besought the assistance of the blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God, and of the saints whose virtues have made England illustrious, that they would deign to obtain by their intercession with God the happy success of this enterprise. We have since commended the whole business to the grave and serious consideration of our venerable brothers the Cardinals of the holy Roman Church forming our congregation for propagating the faith. These sentiments having been found completely comformable to our own, we have resolved to sanction them, and carry them into execution. It is for this reason, after having weighed the whole matter most scrupulously, that of our own proper motion, in our certain knowledge, and in the plenitude of our apostolic power, we have resolved and do hereby decree the re-establishment in the kingdom of England, and according to the common laws of the Church, of a hierarchy of Bishops deriving their titles from their own sees, which we constitute by the present letter in the various apostolic districts. To commence with the district of London, it will form two sees,—to wit, that of Westminster, which we hereby elevate to the metropolitan or archiepiscopal dignity; and that of Southwark, which we assign to it as a suffragan, together with those which we proceed to indicate. The diocese of Westminster will include that portion of the aforesaid district which extends to the banks of the Thames, and comprehends the counties of Middlesex, Essex, and Hertford; that of Southwark, on the south of the Thames, will include the counties of Bedford, Southampton, Surrey, Sussex, and Kent, with the Isles of Wight, Jersey, Guernsey, and others adjacent. In the district of the north there will be but one episcopal see, which will take its name from the town of Hagglestown, and have for its circumscription that of the existing district. The district of York will also form a diocese, whose capital will be the town of Beverley. In the district of Lancaster there will be two Bishops; of whom one, the Bishop of Liverpool, will have for his diocese the isle of Mona, the districts of Lonsdale, Amounderness, and west Derby; and the other, the Bishop of Salford, will extend his jurisdiction over Salford, Blackburn, and Leyland. The county of Chester, though belonging to this district, will be united to another diocese. In the district of Wales two episcopal sees will be established,—that of Salop, and that of Merioneth and Newport united. The diocese of Salop will contain the counties of Anglesea, Carnarvon, Denbigh, Flint, Merioneth, and Montgomery: to which we join the county of Chester, detached from the district of Lancaster, and that of Salop from the centre. To the diocese of the Bishop of Merioneth and Newport are assigned the counties of Brecknock, Glamorgan, Carmarthen, Pembroke, and Radnor, also the English counties of Hereford and Monmouth. In the district of the west we create two sees, Clifton and Plymouth; the first comprehending the counties of Gloucester, Somerset, and Wilts; the second those of Devon, Dorset, and Cornwall. The district of the centre, from which we have detached the county of Salop, will have two episcopal sees, Nottingham and Birmingham; to the first we assign the counties of Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, and Rutland; to the second, the counties of Stafford, Buckingham, Oxford, and Warwick. In the district of the east there will be one see; which will take its name from the town of Northampton, and retain the present circumscription of the district, except the counties of Lincoln and Rutland, which we assigned to the diocese of Nottingham.

"Thus, in the very flourishing kingdom of England there will be one single ecclesiastical province, with one archbishop and twelve suffragans, whose zeal and pastoral labours will, we hope, by the grace of God, bring new and daily increase to the power of Catholicism. For this reason, we reserve to ourselves and successors the right to divide this province into several, and to increase the number of its bishoprics as new ones may be required; and in general, to settle their boundaries as it may appear meet before the Lord.

"Meanwhile, we enjoin the archbishop and bishops to furnish, at stated seasons, reports of the state of their churches to our congregation of the propaganda, and not to omit informing us on all points concerning the spiritual good of their flocks. We shall continue to avail ourselves of the aid of the congregation of the propaganda in all that concerns the affairs of the church in England. But in the sacred government of the clergy and people, and all which concerns the pastoral office, the archbishop and bishops of England will enjoy all the rights and faculties which bishops and archbishops can use, according to the disposition of the sacred canons and the apostolic constitutions; and they will likewise be equally bound by all the obligations to which other bishops and archbishops are held by th common discipline of the Catholic church.

"Their rights and duties will not be in any case impaired by anything that is at present in vigour, whether originating in the ancient form of the English church, or in the subsequent missions instituted in virtue of special constitutions, privileges, or customs, now that the same state of things no longer exists. And in order that no doubt may remain, we suppress, in the plentitude of our apostolic power, and entirely abrogate, all the obligatory and juridical force of the said special constitutions, privileges, and customs, however ancient their date. The archbishop and bishops of England will thus have the integral power to regulate all that belongs to the execution of the common law, or which are left to the authority of bishops by the general discipline of the church. As for us, most assuredly they

shall never have to complain that we do not sustain them by our apostolical authority; and we shall always be happy to second their demands in all which appears calculated to promote the glory of God and the good of souls. In decreeing this restoration of the ordinary hierarchy of bishops in England, and the enjoyment of the common law of the church, we have had principally in view the prosperity and increase of the Catholic religion in the kingdom of England; but we have also desired to gratify the desires of so many of our reverend brethren governing in England under the style of vicars apostolic, and also of a great number of our dear children of the Catholic clergy and people. Many of their ancestors presented the same prayer to our predecessors, who had begun to send vicars apostolic to England, where no Catholic bishop could exercise the common ecclesiastical law in his own church, and who afterwards multiplied the number of vicars apostolic, and of districts, not because religion was submitted in this country to an exceptionable rule, but rather because they would prepare the foundation for the future rebuilding of the ordinary hierarchy.

"This is why we, to whom it has been given by the grace of God to accomplish this great work, declare here that it is not in any manner in our thoughts or intentions that the Bishops of England, provided with the name and rights of ordinary Bishops, should be destitute of any advantages, of whatever nature they may be, which they formerly enjoyed under the title of Vicars Apostolic. It would be contrary to reason to allow any acts of ours performed at the earnest prayer of the English Catholics, and for the benefit of religion, to turn to their damage. Rather we cherish the firm hope that our dear children in Christ, whose arms and largesses have never been wanting to sustain in England religion and the prelates who govern there as Vicars, will exercise a still larger liberality to the Bishops who are now attached by permanent bonds to the English Church, in order that they may not be deprived of temporal aid, which they will require, to ornament their temples and adorn the divine service, to support the clergy and the poor, and for other ecclesiastical services. Finally, lifting the eyes to the Almighty and gracious God, from whom comes our help, we supplicate him with all instance, obsecration, and action of grace, to confirm by Divine grace all that we have decreed for the good of the Church; and to give of His grace to those whose it is to execute these decrees, that they may feed the flock of God committed to their care, and that their zeal may be applied to spread the glory of His name. And, in order to obtain the most abundant succour of celestial grace, we finally invoke as intercessors with God, the holy Mother of God, the blessed Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, with the blessed patrons of England, and especially St. Gregory the Great, in order that the solicitude we have displayed, notwithstanding the insufficiency of our merit, to restore the episcopal sees of England, which he founded in his days with so much advantage to the Church, may likewise redound to the good of the Catholic Church. We decree that this Apostolic letter shall never be taxed with subreptice or obreptice, nor be protested for default either of intention or any defect whatever, but always be valid and firm, and hold good to all intents and purposes, notwithstanding the general Apostolic edicts which have emanated from Synodal, Provincial, or Universal Councils, the special sanctions, as well as the rights of former sees in England, missions apostolic, vicarages constituted in the progress of time, notwithstanding—in one word, all things contrary whatsoever. We likewise decree, that all which may be done to the contrary by any one, whoever he may be, knowing or ignorant, in the name of any authority whatever, shall be without force. We decree that copies of this letter, signed by a notary public, and sealed with the seal of an ecclesiastic, shall be everywhere received as the expression of our will.

"Given at St. Peter's, at Rome, under the seal of the Fisherman, the 24th of September, 1850, and in the fifth year of our pontificate.

"A. CARDINAL LAMBRUSCHINI."

The Queen gave audiences on the 10th to deputations from the Corporation of London, the City Lieutenancy, and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and received the addresses adopted by them in reference to the Papal measures for establishing a Romish hierarchy in this country. The deputation from Oxford was headed by the Duke of Wellington; that from Cambridge by Prince Albert. The following was her Majesty's reply to the Corporation of London:—"I sincerely thank you for your renewed assurances of unaltered attachment to my person and throne, and to the constitution of this country. Your tried and consistent advocacy of the equal enjoyment of civil rights by all classes of your fellow-subjects entitles the expression of your sentiments on the present occasion to peculiar consideration. You may be assured of my earnest desire and firm determination, under God's blessing, to maintain unimpaired the religious liberty which is justly prized by the people of this country, and to uphold, as its surest safeguard, the pure and Scriptural worship of the Protestant faith, which has long been happily established in this land." To the University of Oxford her Majesty replied:—"I accept with much satisfaction the renewed proof afforded by your address of your attachment and loyalty to my person and government, and of your steadfast adherence to the principles of the constitution. It has ever been, and ever will continue to be, my endeavour to promote the efficiency and maintain the purity of our Reformed Church, the supreme government of which, under God, is by law confided to me; and it is highly gratifying to me to be assured of your faithful adherence to its principles, doctrine, and discipline. While I cordially concur in the wish that all classes of my subjects should enjoy the free exercise of their religion, you may rely on my determination to uphold alike the rights of my crown and the independence of my people against all aggressions and encroachments of any foreign power. Your earnest endeavour, in the discharge of your important duties, to train up the youth intrusted to your care in faithful attachment to the truths of holy Scripture, cannot fail, under God's blessing, to have a powerful effect in strengthening the defences of our Protestant faith, and in preserving inviolate the privileges which are justly dear to the people of this country."

The Commission of the Church of Scotland have adopted strong resolutions, moved by Mr. Hill, upon the *Romish invasion;* and the Commission of the Free Church have taken a similar step. The resolutions were moved by Dr. Candlish, who referred with contempt to the opposition of Tractarians, as meant to beguile the public; but confessed that he has great apprehensions of a large outbreak of Popery in a circle of individuals of the highest and most cultivated minds in Scotland.

An address from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the whole of the suffragan bishops (with the exception of the bishops of Exeter and St. David's,) on the subject of the papal aggression, has been presented to the Queen. The omission of the bishop of Exeter's name is explained in a correspondence which appeared in the newspapers. A copy of the address as originally drawn up having been transmitted to him] by the Archbishop of Canterbury's secretary, he returned it, refusing to give his name, and objecting to several passages, particularly the phrases "insult to your majesty's prerogative," "inconsistency with the constitutional laws of the country," and "defiance of the principles of the constitution;" phrases which concerned the relations between the queen and her subjects, of which a foreign potentate could not be supposed to be cognisant; and further, among other things, demurring to the designation of Her Majesty as "the earthly head of the church in the kingdom." The address was revised, and again sent to the bishop with some alterations; but he again declared it unsatisfactory, and refused to sign it. He drew up a separate petition from himself, and transmitted it for presentation, but it was returned to him by the Secretary of State, as being informal.

The Rev. Mr. Bennett has *Resigned* his perpetual curacy of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, and his ministration at St. Barnabas, Pimlico. This step followed a long correspondence with the Bishop of London, which has been published. It appears from this correspondence that, as far back as the beginning of 1847, the bishop's attention was drawn to the peculiar observances or "excessive ritualism" of Mr. Bennett, and these deviations were pointed

out, with the request that they might be discontinued. It would seem, however, that the remonstrance produced no effect; for two years later a parishioner of Mr. Bennett's wrote to the bishop, complaining of the forms which the former persisted in adhering to. Later in the same year (1849) came the consecration of St. Barnabas, and with it not only a repetition, but an augmentation, of the obnoxious practices referred to. The bishop then became more earnest in his remonstrances, to which Mr. Bennett replied by defending his practices and declaring his intention to persist in them. On the 16th of November the bishop declared the practices in question to be inconsistent with the duty of a minister of the English Church, and formally called on Mr. Bennett to relinquish them. Mr. Bennett having continued to justify the course he followed, the bishop, on the 27th, concluded his answer by saying—"Upon the whole, if you are not prepared to comply, *simpliciter* and *ex animo*, with the requisition contained in my letter of the 16th inst., I must call upon you to fulfil your offer of retiring from a charge which I deliberately think you could not in that case continue to hold without great injury to the church." Mr. Bennett states, in reply to this, that being unable conscientiously to comply, "*simpliciter* and *ex animo*," with the bishop's requisition of the 16th of November, it follows, he says, that he must submit to the "call" made upon him in that of the 27th, which, as it involves the continued opinion that he is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Church of England, he considers it his duty to submit, and therefore sends in his resignation of the perpetual curacy of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge. The bishop closed the correspondence by accepting the reverend gentleman's resignation.

The meetings throughout the country on the subject of the *Papal Aggression* have been so many and so similar in character, that it would be useless to enumerate them.

The meeting of the County of Surrey was marked by the appearance of Sir Edward Sugden, who gave his view of the present state of the law as applicable to the case. Sir Edward was clear and unhesitating in his opinion that the "illegality" of denying the queen's supremacy, and of introducing "bulles" into this country, remains untouched by the minor Relief Act passed in 1847, which only repeals certain of the severer "penalties" enacted by the 13th Elizabeth. Sir Edward stated, that though he voted for Catholic Emancipation, with doubt and hesitation, in 1829, he has never repented of that vote, and would repeat it to-morrow if occasion called for it.

The Roman Catholic Peer Lord Beaumont has been joined by the hereditary head of his English co-religionists in a pronouncement against the *Aggressive Reorganisation of their Hierarchy*. The Duke of Norfolk has written the following letter to Lord Beaumont, with leave to make what use of it he likes; and the latter has sent a copy from his residence in Ireland for publication in London:—

"Arundel Castle, 28th Nov.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I so entirely coincide with the opinions in your letter to Lord Zetland, that I must write to you to express my agreement with you. I should think that many must feel as we do, that ultramontane opinions are totally incompatible with allegiance to our sovereign, and with our constitution.

"I remain, my dear Lord, faithfully yours,

"'To the Lord Beaumont.' "NORFOLK."

An address has been presented to the Bishop of London, signed by a large number of Mr. Bennett's congregation, some parishioners and some non-parishioners, entreating the bishop to reconsider his decision respecting Mr. Bennett's offer of *Resignation*. The bishop, in his answer to the address, stated that he is under the painful necessity of adhering to that decision.

The Bishop of London has directed the archdeacons of London and Middlesex to visit all the churches and chapels in which it is alleged that *Romish ceremonies* are practised, and to report to him every case in which any ceremonies or forms are used not authorised by the rubric, nor sanctioned by established custom.

St. Barnabas Church, Pimlico, was again opened for divine service, on Sunday the 22nd, the suspending notice having been removed in the course of last week. Mr. Bennett took no part in the conduct of the service, which was performed by the Revs. G. F. De Gex and W. Fyfe. The rites and symbols appear to have undergone no modification, save that the candles on the altar remained unlighted after the chanting of the Litany. Mr. Cowie, of Putney College, preached the sermon, in which the peculiar views of the Puseyite party on baptism were advanced.

The Election for the County of Limerick took place on the 10th, when W. Goold, Esq., was returned in preference to Captain Dickson and Mr. Ryan. The last, the Tenant League agitator, was the lowest on the poll.

The Cattle Show of the Smithfield Club in Baker Street, which was opened to the public on the 10th, was remarkably large and excellent. The first prizes were generally won by breeders or farmers. The greater number of secondary prizes were gained by amateur noblemen and gentlemen—Prince Albert, the Duke of Richmond, the Duke of Wellington, the Earl of Warwick, and others. The usual dinner took place on the 13th. The Duke of Richmond presided, and was supported by a miscellaneous body of members from all shades of party; including the Earl of Hardwicke, Colonel Sibthorp, Mr. J. Villers Shelly, and Mr. Mechi. The Chairman congratulated the society on the honour done to them by the Queen and Prince Albert in visiting the show on Monday; and stated that affairs are so prosperous that the prizes can be paid out of yearly subscriptions without encroachment on capital, and yet a considerable fund be appropriated for a large extension of the show next year. The Earl of Hardwicke struck out an innovating plan of competition, believing that the present mode of awarding the prizes does not select and compare the true criteria of excellence. He said, that it cannot at present be told with certainty how long the animals have been under feeding, how they were fed, or what was their real age. The proper method would be, to take the animals when they are lean, put them up together, and feed them upon the same food; and then it will be ascertained by the speed with which they fatten which animal is of the best blood. He was prepared to put up his animals under that system, though he was aware it might be attended with some difficulties; and he challenged all England to compete with him.

The *National Association* held a general meeting at the London Tavern on the 12th. The attendance was very small. Mr. George Young presided, and Major Beresford was the sole M.P. present. The tone of all the speakers was one of very great hostility to landlords. Mr. Young stated the society's programme to include now the equalisation of poor-rates, and its imposition on personal as well as real property, abolition of malt-tax, non-renewal of income-tax, a just revisal of tithe-commutation, reduction of local rates, and a law to enable tenants to revoke leases made before 1846. Mr. Young himself declared his belief that "the day of high prices is over."

[Parliament has been further *Prorogued* from the 17th inst. to the 4th of February, when it will meet for the despatch of business.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE men who committed the *Burglary* in the house of Mr. Holford, in the Regent's Park—Dyson, Mitchell, and Mahon—were tried at the Central Criminal Court on the 30th Nov. Dyson and Mitchell pleaded guilty, and Mahon was convicted by the jury. They were sentenced to transportation for life.

The magistrates of Cambridge have fined the Reverend John Fenwick, M.A., a proctor, and his two attendants, or "bull-dogs," Robinson and Boning, for an *Assault* on Emma Thompson. While the three defendants were out at night searching for improper persons in the streets, they encountered Emma Thompson, a respectable modest girl; and she was detained for some time, and questioned. When Mr. Thompson waited on Mr. Fenwick respecting his behaviour to his daughter, the proctor made some very lame excuses or explanations.

He was fined 20*s*., and his assistants 10*s*. each, with costs. But the fines were not paid by the proctor and his assistants till the form of capturing them had been gone through. An arrangement was made, by which the superintendent of police formally arrested them at the office of Mr. Fenwick's solicitor, and the fines were paid. This was done to form the basis of an action for false imprisonment by the University authorities against those of the town.

Mary Ann Doe, the girl who told two such different stories respecting the conduct of the Rev. R. A. Johnstone, was brought before the Brentwood magistrates on the 2nd, on a charge of *Perjury*. The information was laid by Superintendent Coulson. The girl's solicitor objected, that it was incompetent for any one but the person injured, or a Judge of Assize, to lay an information of the kind. The bench overruled this objection. Another objection was about to be raised, when the chairman made an inquiry as to the amount of evidence at present obtained; and the answer of Mr. Coulson induced the magistrates to stop the case. The chairman said—"This case is dismissed, on the ground that there is insufficient evidence to support the complaint. The bench have come to this decision with the less reluctance, in consequence of their confident belief that subornation of perjury has been committed; and they are determined that the matter shall be fully investigated." Some difficulty was anticipated in the apprehension of the girl, and an artifice was adopted to place her in custody. A man dressed in rustic attire, with a gun in his hand, was sent into a field at the back of the cottage where her parents reside. He fired off the gun several times, and the girl presently came out of the cottage to see what he was shooting at. She walked up to him; and as soon as she came within reach, the disguised officer intimated to her that she was a prisoner, and immediately took her to Brentwood.

A *Burglary with Violence* was committed at Frenchan Common, near Farnham, on the evening of the 30th ult. About eight o'clock, Mr. Marshall, who lives with his sister alone, was aroused by a loud knock at his front-door. On opening, he found a group of seven men standing round it; and as soon as he presented himself, one of their number inquired the road to Guildford. Mr. Marshall was in the act of stepping out to direct them, when he was suddenly knocked down, it is supposed by a life-preserver. The men immediately entered the house; but they were encountered by Miss Marshall, who, with great presence of mind, rushed up stairs to procure a gun which her brother always kept loaded, calling out at the same time, "I 'll fire at them." The villains caught her upon the staircase, and presenting pistols at her, dragged her to the front-door, where they pointed out her brother lying in an insensible state on the ground, and cautioned her to be quiet. They then ransacked the house of everything of a valuable character it contained, taking off amongst other property a number of old guineas. Before leaving, they abused Miss Marshall in good set terms for not having more property in the house. Mr. Marshall was insensible for two hours, and has suffered much since.

Mr. Thomas Waters, a gentleman of Bedminster, while staying at Wrington in Somerset, made a very determined attempt to *Murder his Wife*, in a fit of delirium. He sharpened a knife, went into his wife's room, locked the door, and endeavoured to cut her throat; she struggled with him, and they fell on the floor; he there persevered in his efforts, but she held down her chin on her neck, and so preserved herself from a mortal wound, till relatives, attracted by her screams, burst open the door and saved her life. She was terribly disfigured on the face, and had one of her fingers cut off. Her husband was removed to an asylum; he sank into a state of prostration, and died after three days of reaction from the intensely excited state in which he had been.

The Consistory Court gave judgment on the 7th, in the divorce case of *King* v. *King*, promoted by the Honourable Robert King, eldest son of Lord Lorton, on the ground of the adultery of his wife with a French gentleman called Vicomte de Saint Jean; and resisted by Mrs. King on the grounds of her husband's connivance at her immorality, and of his own adultery with Madame de Saint Jean and other persons. The Judge, Dr. Lushington, held that the wife's unfaithfulness was proved; that the proof of the husband's connivance failed, but that the husband's own unfaithfulness was established; he therefore dismissed both parties, and refused to pronounce for a divorce.

At the Liverpool Winter Assizes, on the 9th, William Threlfall pleaded guilty to *Forging a Bill of Exchange for* 1,000*l*. It was stated for the prosecution, that the prisoner had uttered forged bills by wholesale. His forgery of thirty, for 32,811*l*., and his guilty knowledge with respect to a hundred and fifteen others, for 133,000*l*., could be proved. It was said in defence, that in nearly every instance the bills had been taken up before they became due—113,801*l*. in all. Others would have been met but for the breaking up of his business by the discovery of the forgeries; still his estate would pay from 12*s*. to 15*s*. in the pound. Morally speaking, he had no intention to defraud. Mr. Justice Talfourd said that, morally speaking, as well as legally, he considered a person who should commit forgery with the intention of taking up the bill before it was due was guilty. When the offence was punishable by death, many persons had been executed who, no doubt, intended to do what it was said had been the prisoner's intention. He had no doubt that Dr. Dodd never intended to defraud Lord Chesterfield when he forged his name. It was quite impossible that he could adopt a notion that, in such cases, there was not a moral as well as a legal guilt. The prisoner was sentenced to be transported for life.

An action of *Libel*, at the instance of Captain Aaron Smith, against Captain Cook, formerly in the Merchant Service, and now the agent in London of the Scotch Equitable Association, was tried before the Court of Queen's Bench on the 9th inst. It arose out of some statements made at a public meeting held in January last, on the subject of piracy in Borneo. Captain Smith having spoken of circumstances which, from his own personal knowledge, placed the existence of the alleged piracy beyond a doubt, was at once accused of having been one of the very miscreants he denounced, and Mr. Cobden afterwards stated in the House of Commons that Capt. Aaron Smith was an ex-pirate. A hostile correspondence ensued, in which Capt. Smith demanded satisfaction, which was refused; and, in the course of the correspondence, Capt. Cook came forward, and adopted the full responsibility of the charge affecting Smith by distinctly reiterating it in a letter to the "Times." This letter was the subject-matter of the action. It appears that as far back as 1823 Capt. Smith was formally put upon his trial for his share in the capture of two vessels (one being Capt. Cook's), and he was formally acquitted. In 1829 he was again tried for supposed complicity in a similar act perpetrated by the same band. His defence on each occasion was, that he was a prisoner, completely in the power of the pirates, and that he acted by compulsion. Capt. Cook was examined as a witness at the first trial, and was present at the second, when the jury, after hearing a single witness for the prosecution, stopped the case. On the present trial the whole of the former evidence was recapitulated, and at its close Lord Campbell summed up. Capt. Smith, he said, was placed in a situation of great hardship in this trial, the occurrences with which he was charged having taken place thirty years ago. It was true that the law did not recognise limitation to charges of crimes; but men would not fail to see that after a certain period a charge could not be brought without pressing with undue hardship on the accused, and especially in a case like this, when the party had already three times successfully answered it. By this libel Capt. Cook charged Capt. Smith as a pirate and a murderer. Now the question for the jury to consider would be, first, whether there was any evidence at all of murder; and secondly, whether he had voluntarily taken a part in the piratical transactions. There was no evidence either that the pirate captain was dead, or that Captain Smith took his place. If the jury believed that he had voluntarily joined the pirates, and voluntarily remained with them, when it was said he might have escaped, they would find their verdict for the defendant; but if the contrary, for the plaintiff; and in this latter

event, it would be for them to say what amount of damages they considered him entitled to. The jury retired, and after a short absence returned into court, and gave a verdict for the plaintiff—Damages, 10*l.*

An extraordinary charge of *Domestic Cruelty* was investigated at Guildhall police court on the 7th. Mr. George Sloane, a special pleader in the Temple, was accused of having starved and maltreated Jane Wilbred, a young girl in his service, as maid of all work. The girl's weak and emaciated condition had been observed by the neighbours, and they had learned from herself that she was nearly dead from starvation and ill usage. Two gentlemen, who had chambers adjoining, called on Mr. Sloane, and insisted on obtaining the custody of the girl, and with some demur he gave her up. She was found to be in a dangerous condition, and conveyed to the Royal Free Hospital. On the above day she was brought to Guildhall, a summons having been issued against Mr. Sloane. The girl's appearance, as she was carried into the court in an easy chair, excited groans and exclamations of horror. She was described by witnesses as having been eighteen months ago a comely girl, plump and healthy. The surgeon of the hospital thus described her appearance when she was brought there: "The pulse was scarcely perceptible; the extremities very cold and livid; the respiration feeble; and she was almost unable to speak." There was no disease: the appearances resulted entirely from want of food; and this must have been the case for many months. There were marks of violence about her neck and shoulders; but they had not been inflicted by anything hard, such as a stick, for if that had been used the bones must have been broken. She could not have existed in that state many days longer. "I have been," he said, "in the constant habit, during the last twenty years, of seeing cases of extreme distress, in many of which the persons have died in a few hours after their admission into the hospital; but I never saw a case at all approaching the appearance presented by that girl. I could not have believed a person could be so reduced and live. She was certainly the most perfect living skeleton I had ever seen in the course of my life." The girl herself was then examined.—Placed beside the alderman, her voice was inaudible to any person but himself: he questioned her aloud, held his ear close to her mouth, and catching her replies repeated them aloud. She stated herself to be going on for eighteen, and to have been taken from the West Union Work house by Mrs. Sloane, "on the 19th July going on for two years." She received no wages. At first they treated her pretty well; but after three months they took away the clothing from her sleeping-mattress, and stinted her meals. At last they gave her only "a little bit of bread and mustard for breakfast, with coffee and carraway seeds"; and it was often noon or later before she got that, though she rose at six. For dinner she had a "little bread and broth, with a quantity of mustard in it." "The last time I had meat was about a month before Mr. Phillimore saw me; then I had a little beef, but not nearly so much as I could eat. It was generally six or seven o'clock in the evening before ever I got any dinner, sometimes before and sometimes after Mr. and Mrs. Sloane dined. I used then to have for tea a little bread and pepper or mustard; but they would not allow me anything to drink with it. I was not even allowed to take any water. I could not get at it without Mrs. Sloane seeing me, and she would beat me if I attempted it." She was often beaten—nearly every morning, by Mrs. Sloane, for wearing the sleeves of her shift on her arms when it was cold. "Once when Mrs. Sloane had gone out and boiled some meat for her cat, when the meat was boiled and the cat had the meat, the water it was boiled in was put in a basin, and she accused me of drinking a little of the water. I said I had not, but she beat me very much for it." The girl then revealed an almost incredible instance of obscene cruelty. Mrs. Sloane once ordered her to eat some of her own excrement, and actually called Mr. Sloane to aid her while she forced the revolting substance into the girl's mouth. [The whole of the persons in court here burst into a yell of indignation: the officers made no attempt to repress the manifestation, and Alderman Humphery declared that his feelings would hardly allow him to continue the examination.] The girl went on to give further details of beatings, and of the precautions taken to prevent the participation of any food not given by the hands of Mrs. Sloane herself. Alderman Humphery now found that her voice was growing inarticulate; she murmured something in which the word "Hospital" was alone distinguishable. Mr. Clarkson (who appeared for Mr. Sloane) rose to cross-examine her, and asked, "When did Mr. Sloane beat you?" After a long interval, she whispered, "Mr. Sloane beat me about a month ago"; and then she seemed to become unconscious. The surgeon found that she had not fainted, but had fallen asleep; and he forbade any further questioning, as impossible to be borne. Mr. Clarkson, with evident feeling, bowed to the interdict; but stated his belief that "when the case came to be further investigated, it would present a different aspect." Alderman Humphery (with emphasis) —"There shall indeed be another inquiry, and Mrs. Sloane must also appear to answer this serious charge." — Mr. Sloane was liberated on bail to the amount of 400*l.*, for his reappearance next week.

Mr. Sloane appeared again on the 13th, when further evidence, corroborative of the above, was taken. Mrs. Sloane was excused from attendance, having met with an accident. A witness swore to having seen Mrs. Sloane beat the girl and drag her by the hair of her head. Alderman Humphery censured the authorities of the West London Union for their lukewarmness in not prosecuting. Mr. Pontifex, the clerk, excused the officers by reference to difficulties respecting the expenses: but, after an indignant demonstration from the Alderman, he took up the case for the Union. Mr. Clarkson again, out of humane consideration for the weak state of the girl, abstained from any questions; but re-stated that Mr. Sloane's friends rely with confidence on his exculpation in the sequel. The investigation was continued on the 20th, and particulars even more disgusting than those already disclosed were elicited. Mr. Sloane appeared alone. Mrs. Sloane had evaded the search of the officers, and it appears intends to remain in concealment till the day of trial at the Old Bailey, when it is said she will surrender. Mr. Huddlestone appeared for the West London Union, who now intend to prosecute with vigour. He applied, however, for a further remand, in order to make himself fully master of the case; and intimated that if Mrs. Sloane does not appear when he shall prosecute the examination in full detail, he shall oppose the permission of Mr. Sloane to be at large. Alderman Humphery adjudged that the bail be increased, and required two sureties for 250*l.* each, and the recognizances of Mr. Sloane himself for 500*l.* Mr. Sloane, after the examination was adjourned, requested permission to leave by one of the private entrances to the court; and, having first sent out the gaoler to ascertain if the coast was quite clear in Church Passage, peeped round the corner of the door in every direction, and, feeling satisfied that no one saw him, made a sudden rush, and at the top of his speed made the best of his way into Gresham Street, where he was recognised by a person who had seen him in court during the proceedings. It was soon passed from one to another, until a mob collected round him so dense, that he was quite unable to escape. Mud was heaped upon him from all sides, and his ears were greeted with various shouts: "Down with the wretch who starved the girl!" "Death to the cruel monster!" "Give it to him; show him no mercy; he had none for Jane Wilbred!" and such-like phrases. In order the more effectually to prevent his escaping, one of the mob knocked his hat over his eyes, and it was not until he was dragged and pulled about in a very rough manner that he was able to get away from them, when he ran towards the Post-office, with the mob in full chase after him, yelling and hooting at his heels at every step, until he fortunately met a policeman, who took him under his protection, and hurried him into a public-house in Gresham Street, where he remained until a cab was called, and he was got into it with great difficulty and conveyed to his chambers in the Temple. On arriving there, however, a fresh surprise awaited him, for there were from 500 to 600 persons collected round the house in Pump Court, anxiously waiting for Mr. Sloane. The officer who had accom-

panied him in the cab then directed the cabman to drive along the Strand, but the mob who had followed the vehicle from Gresham Street so annoyed him by mud and other missiles, that Mr. Sloane expressed a wish that the cabman should cross Waterloo Bridge and put him down at the railway station, and he ultimately escaped without any serious injury.

Several cases have occurred of workmen being driven from their employment by *Combinations of their Fellows*. A labouring cooper complained at the Thames Police Court, on the 17th, that his trade association had fined him 10*l*. for entering a workshop where steam is employed, and that they now persecuted him, and got him turned out of work to such a degree that he must starve. The magistrate could only say that the association might be liable to an indictment.

A mill-sawyer was charged at Lambeth Police Office, on the 14th, with leaving his employment under threats by fellow-workmen, because the master, Mr. Woods of Nine Elms, employed men not members of the Sawyers' Society. The man was engaged to work eleven hours a day for 24*s*. a week; but after working a few hours, went "pale and trembling" to Mr. Woods, and prayed to be free, or his society would scratch him off their roll. The magistrate found that one rule of the society is—"That if any member of the society shall introduce his son into a situation as a saw-sharpener, thereby depriving another member who is qualified, or out of employment, of taking the same, he shall be excluded." This rule would prevent a man from performing his first natural duty of providing for his own child; and it must be wrong in morals. But it is also in clear contravention of the 6th George IV., commonly called Mr. Hume's Act, which declares, "That if any person shall, by threats, intimidation, or by molesting, in any way obstruct another, force or endeavour to force any journeyman, workman, or other person hired or employed, from his work or hire, all such persons so offending are liable to be sent to the house of correction for three calendar months." After conversation, Mr. Woods offered the sawyer constant work if he would give up the society; and the sawyer consented to stick by his master. On that understanding, the magistrate allowed the summons to stand over for a fortnight.

The persons *Charged with the Robbery* on the premises of Mr. Chapman, jeweller, in the Strand, were tried at the Central Criminal Court on the 20th. Clinton, the shop-boy, who admitted the robbers in the evening after the manager had gone, Shaw and Badock, the shoemaker's, Clinton's friends, with Gardner and Buncher, two reputed thieves, were tried as principals; Mary Buncher and Mary Cheroneau were tried as comforters and abettors. Clinton pleaded guilty. The trial of the others had an unexpected result: Clinton's former statements, incriminating the others, have been so contradictory, and his whole conduct so untruthful, that the Crown prosecutors would not put him in the box as Queen's evidence; and the other witnesses failed to make out a case against the other prisoners, who, except Clinton, were consequently acquitted. Clinton was sentenced to be transported for twenty years.

A *Melancholy Suicide* has been committed by Mr. Spence, Q.C., the eminent barrister. He was sixty-three years old, and had for some time been in declining health, and afflicted with a deep mental despondency. He became at last possessed by the delusion that he was dying from an internal disease which his father had laboured under; and his medical attendant was quite unable to remove the wholly ungrounded impression. On the 10th, his mind wholly gave way, and in the dead of the night he opened veins in his neck, his thighs, and his wrists; and his summoned household found him at the point of death from loss of blood. Still rational, he said—"My sufferings were greater than I could bear: you see what a dreadful thing I have done. I am pleased that I have been punished in this world, and I hope I shall escape hereafter." By medical skill his life was preserved till the 19th, when he died from exhaustion. A coroner's jury, at his house in Hyde Park Terrace, returned a verdict of "suicide under the influence of temporary insanity."

Another case has occurred of *Robbery attempted by means of Strangulation*. Mr. Adolphe Dubois, a dentist in Princes Street, was passing through Norton Street, near Portland Place, about half-past nine o'clock on the night of the 18th, when he noticed three men in a doorway, as if they were there to get out of the rain. As he was passing, one of them ran down the steps and rushed against him, at the same time throwing a rope or gag over his head, which was instantly forced round his neck, and tightened so as nearly to choke him. Mr. Dubois endeavoured to give an alarm; but the rope was twisted tighter, a man being at his back, using something like a lever to effect this compression. He contrived, however, to call out; upon which the other two men ran down the steps and held his hands. By the time he had nearly lost consciousness, he felt the pressure removed, and then saw the three men running off by different ways. He called out "Murder! Police!" and he then noticed that his outside coat was torn, and that his watch and chain had been taken from him. In a minute or two afterwards, a man who called himself William Thompson was brought to him, and he instantly identified him as the man who had used the gag or rope to him. The watch was soon afterwards produced in a shattered condition, having been found in an area close to where the prisoner was stopped. He had marks on his neck from the violence to which he had been subjected; and he suffered a kind of spasm every five minutes from the same cause. Thompson was brought before the Worship Street Police Court, next day, and remanded on a statement by the police that they expected to capture his accomplices.

A recent Trial for *Murder in France* has created a great sensation from the atrocity of the circumstances. The Abbé Gothland, a priest, and Madame du Sablon, the wife of a physician at Augoulême, were placed at the bar on a charge of having wilfully murdered a woman named Deguisal, who lived with Gothland as his servant. The corpse of the deceased had been exhumed upon suspicion, and was found to contain arsenic; in addition to which it was testified that the deceased had sickened suddenly, and had suffered from violent vomitings previously to her death. These facts suggested that she must have come to a violent end; suspicion fell upon the prisoners; and evidence was brought to show that Gothland had been living in adulterous intercourse with Madame du Sablon; that this illicit connexion had been discovered by Deguisal; and that the murder had been devised and perpetrated by the joint exertions of the pair to remove this witness of their guilt. Proof was brought that Gothland, in parishes where he had formerly officiated, had been notoriously inculpated with other married women, and that Madame du Sablon had maintained a similar connexion with Gothland's predecessor in the curacy. Evidence of a less direct kind was also taken to prove the criminal dispositions of both the accused parties. On the other hand, it is particularly remarkable that the defence was made to rest more on the probability of suicide, than the improbability of adultery and murder; nor was any testimony offered to the sanctity or innocence of the priest beyond the simple evidence, that, with the fate of his predecessor before his eyes, he had resolved to exercise greater caution in his intercourse with his female parishioners. The question of the "probabilities" was complicated by an incident so wholly French in character, that it is difficult to attach to it, according to the English notions, any decided purport. As soon as the accusation had become known to Dr. du Sablon, the husband of the female prisoner, he held a long "explanation" with his wife, the result of which was they both shut themselves up in a room with a little boy their son, kindled some pans of charcoal, and thus endeavoured to terminate at one stroke their existence and their difficulties. In the execution of this resolve they were interrupted, though not until their purpose had been nearly effected; and both the parties to the trial endeavoured to turn the fact to their own peculiar benefit. Madame du Sablon insisted that if her husband had considered her guilty, he would not have sacrificed his life with her; to which the prosecutor replied with more plausibility, that if he had been persuaded of her innocence he would not have proposed suicide at all, or, at any rate, would not have included his little son in the sacrifice. In the end, after a melo-

dramatic display protracted through a whole week the jury acquitted the woman, and convicted the priest, but with a reserve of "extenuating circumstances" in his favour, and he was condemned to the gallies for life; but it is said that he intends to appeal against the sentence.

An *Extraordinary Escape* from the Pentonville prison was made by a convict named George Hacket on the evening of Sunday the 1st inst. Having lately escaped from a cell at the Marlborough police court, and also attempted to escape from Newgate, he was removed to Pentonville, and placed under the surveillance of the prison officers. After service on the above evening he was missing, and it was by finding the sheets of his bed, a rope, and his clothing on the parapet-wall that his mode of escape was detected. It appears that he had wrested off the spring of the door of his cell, which he formed into a "jemmy," and concealed about him a weight and the sheets and rope of his bed, which he must have wrapped round his body under his clothes. As soon as he was conducted to his seat in the chapel he must have slipped down off it on to the flooring, and by the "jemmy" and weight forced out the boarding, thus enabling him to descend to a small closet beneath. A window with trifling protection afforded him access to the parapet-wall some few feet below. Gaining it, he proceeded along to one of the main walls, 50 or 60 feet long, communicating to the governor's house, on the north side of the prison. Reaching the end, he must have got on to the roof of the house, a height of more than six feet from the wall. He then must have divested himself of the prison clothing, save his trousers and blue shirt, and with the "jemmy," rope, sheets, &c. left them on the roof, and by sliding down one of the gable-end walls got clear of the gaol. The governor despatched officers to the different police stations with a full description of his person, and the inspector of prisons instituted an inquiry into the circumstances attending the convict's flight. Next evening the governor received by post the following note:—

"MONDAY, *Dec.* 2, 1850.

"George Hacket presents his compts. to the Governor of the Model Prison, Pentonville, and begs to apprise him of his happy escape from the gaol. He is in excellent spirits, and can assure the Governor that it will be useless for his men to pursue him; that he is quite safe, and in a few days intends to proceed to the continent to recruit his health."

All endeavours to discover and recapture him have been unavailing.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

Two fatal accidents have happened in the *Tunnelling Operations* now going on under the streets. To divert, or suppress, the stench of a sewer discharging itself near the New Houses of Parliament, a sluice-grated sewer has been in course of excavation at the bottom of Northumberland Street, Charing Cross, which would carry the sewage into the Thames below the low-water mark. On the 16th, there was a spring-tide; extra precautions had been taken to keep out the water, and they were thought to be sufficient. But while sixteen persons were employed in the subterranean works, the river suddenly made a breach through all obstructions, and flooded the works. The men strove hard for life; but two of them, Edward Gorman and William Gardner, were overwhelmed by the rush of waters, and drowned. The drowned men have each left widows and families destitute; for whom the contractors, Messrs. Humphreys and Thrist, declared their intention to provide. At the inquest held on Wednesday, it appeared that the contractors, without consulting the Sewer officers, for a temporary facility to their works, made an extra tunnel under the Regent Street sewer, with a roof of from four to six feet thickness of mud and earth, resting on timber supports. On Monday morning the men went down to work while a high tide was in the dock; the earthy crown of the tunnel could not bear the pressure, and the water rushed in. The inquiry was adjourned till the 23d, when the Jury found the following Verdict:—"Accidental death by drowning: and the jury cannot separate without expressing their opinion that great negligence is attributable to Messrs. Humphreys and Thrist, and their foremen, Messrs. Wheeler and Perrott, in not consulting the engineer connected with the Victoria sewer."

More disastrous accidents from the *Explosion of Engine-boilers* have occurred. At Halifax, on the 29th ult., the boiler of a manufactory exploded while the people were all at work in the afternoon: the boiler was the centre one of three; above was a part of the premises occupied by the workers, and this became a heap of ruins, which the fires of the boilers set in a blaze, that was with difficulty extinguished. Many were buried in the rubbish, and it was a long time before the débris could be cleared away to get at the unfortunate people. Nine were taken out dead, and others were found very much hurt. Another explosion subsequently occurred at Bilston, in Messrs. Baldwin's colliery. Though very violent, large masses of iron flying to a long distance and destroying buildings, no one was killed. The engineer was scalded, but is going on favourably.

The Duffryn mine, a new colliery in the valley of Aberdare, has proved fatal to at least two lives. Fifty-two persons were down a pit more than five hundred feet deep, when an explosion shattered the "bratishing" which lines the shaft, and closed up all means of escape, and apparently all means of ventilation. After an hour or two of painful suspense, a single bucket was got down the pumping-shaft; and by its slow instrumentality all the poor prisoners were drawn out but three. Two lifeless bodies were extricated.

In the Morfa pit of Messrs. Vivian and Son, at Taibach, Glamorganshire, at least two persons have been killed, and some thirty wounded, by an explosion.

In the Abergwydden colliery, Monmouthshire, the gearing of the lifting apparatus having gotten out of order, the heavy "carriage" ran down the shaft with frightful rapidity. A man stood beneath; panic rooted him to the spot, and he was crushed to death.

Two *Collisions on the Eastern Counties Railway* took place during the dense fog in London on the evening of the 23rd. They both took place at Stratford, near the Brick Lane goods station. The half-past four o'clock down train to Hertford was standing at the Stratford station, and on the eve of resuming its journey, when the Enfield express, which left Bishopsgate at a quarter to five, came in fearful contact with it, causing considerable injury to the passengers in the two rear carriages—a first and second class. The train, however, went on, and ran into the Hertford carriages. The first struck was a second-class, which was shattered in all directions; the unfortunate occupants, with fractured limbs and contused wounds, falling amongst the fragments. The next carriage, a first-class, was then driven in, and the escape of a lady and gentleman, Mr. and Mrs. Head, connected with the firm of Charrington and Co., the brewers, who occupied the coupé, was most surprising. They were exposed almost to the full force of the collision. On being extricated, however, although much shaken and bruised, their limbs were not found to be fractured. The density of the fog tended much to the alarm and confusion, and during the period employed in removing the injured persons from the wreck of the carriages their cries for aid excited much sensation. At length they were all extricated, and, apparently, every one who was seated in the last two carriages was hurt, more or less. The second collision was of a similar character; the Norwich evening express overtaking the Colchester parliamentary train, near the Brick Lane goods station, and running into it. Both trains were overdue—the Colchester about half an hour, and the Norwich an hour; the fog and slippery state of the rails being the primary cause. As in the other case, many persons were hurt, some of them seriously, but no lives were lost. Investigation, in both cases, will take place.

A *Railway Accident* occurred on the 23rd on the Leeds and Selby line, near the Melford station. A heavily laden luggage train from Leeds, arriving at a rather steep ascent, the engine was unable to drag it up, and it recoiled down the incline, running into another luggage train coming from Leeds on the same line of rails The engine and tender were smashed to pieces, and the

engineman, the stoker, and another man (employed as a pointsman) were all killed, or received such injuries as caused their death the same evening.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

EARL FITZWILLIAM, when his rent audit took place last month, announced to his tenants his intention to make an *Equitable Adjustment of their Rents*, in accordance with the circumstances of the times. He stated, that, in consequence of the legislative changes that had taken place, and their now ascertained effect, he did not think that the basis on which his rents had been hitherto fixed would be an equitable basis for the future. When the last basis was adopted, his private opinion was that it was a little too high, but it had been settled by others, on whose judgment he relied. And he was bound to say that the average prices since that settlement had justified the adoption of that basis in 1843. For the future, however, it would certainly be too high, and he intended, therefore, that his rents should be re-adjusted on a lower basis. What that would be he could not then say. He should leave the matter in the hands of persons competent to advise him, but the result, he was convinced, would be a general reduction of rents. This, of course, would not apply to accommodation land, which derived its value from peculiar circumstances.

At the Town-hall of Windsor, on the 3d, there was a *Distribution of Prizes by His Royal Highness Prince Albert*, to labourers and other deserving persons. A list was read over of twenty-one persons who had been selected from the parishes of New and Old Windsor, Eton, Clewer, Sunning-hill, and Sunning-dale, as the most deserving to receive rewards for cleanliness and tidiness in house and person, the best cultivators of gardens, or allotments, being also persons of sober and good moral character. Each person was then called up separately, and presented by the Prince with a sum of money varying from 15*s.* to 30*s.*, and also a card bearing an inscription recording the fact, on which his name was written, and to which the Prince added his autograph.

The Magistrates of Surrey, at a large special meeting on the 2d, adopted the report of their Committee recommending the establishment of *a Rural Police* in those portions of the county without the limits of the Metropolitan Police district. The Committee concluded, after examinations of persons and documents, that the rural portion of the county, which contains ninety-six parishes, should be formed into three Police divisions; to be called the Chertsey, Dorking, and Godalming divisions. The Chief Constable should reside at Dorking, as the most central point. The various lock-up houses should be repaired, and stationhouses erected, at an estimated cost not exceeding 3000*l.*; "which would be raised upon the security of the police-rate, and repaid with interest in twenty yearly instalments." The total expenditure will be 6284*l.* 7*s.*, the total savings 2574*l.*; there will be a balance of 3710*l.* 7*s.* for the cost; and this balance will be so much further reduced when the proposed force shall have been a short time in operation, that the expense of maintaining the Police will, it is believed, be little felt by the rural portion of the county. A Committee is to select a fit person for the important office of Chief Constable; and the full Bench will elect the officer next Epiphany Sessions.

It has been determined by the Court of Directors of the East India Company that the appointment of Governor of their *Military Seminary* at *Addiscombe* shall in future be quinquennial—that is, to be vacated after five years—like the appointments to the Councils of India and to the General Staff and commands of the Army. This is a measure well calculated to secure efficiency in the performance of the duties. No officer has yet been selected as successor to Colonel Stannus, whose death was reported more than a month ago; but many very distinguished officers are reported to be candidates for the situation.

A return of the number of *Cotton, Woollen, Worsted, Flax, and Silk Factories*, subject to the Factories Acts in each county; of the aggregate of steam or water power by which they are worked; of the number of persons employed in them, distinguishing children under 18 from adults, and males from females; which has been made under an order issued by the Crown, in compliance with the prayer of an address agreed to by the House of Commons on the 10th of June last; gives the following general results. Total number of factories for the different processes of manufacture in silk, cotton, woollen, and flax in England and Wales, 3089; working 22,850,010 spindles, and 272,588 power looms, by means of steam power and water power equal to 91,610 and 18,214 horses respectively. The number of persons employed, 495,707, of whom 216,464 are males, 279,243 females, 130,259 of the former being above 18, 57,453 between 13 and 18, and 260,378 of the latter above 13 years of age. 19,042 male and 15,113 female children under 13 years, and 1710 male and 3752 female children between 11 and 13, are employed in silk throwing mills. In Scotland the number of factories is 550; spindles, 2,256,403; power looms, 23,811; steam power, 13,857 horses; water power, 6004 horses; children between 11 and 13, in silk throwing mills, 27 males and 164 females; children in other factories under 13, 351 males and 578 females; males between the ages of 13 and 18, 6982; females above 13, 52,806; males above 18, 14,780; total number of males, 22,140; females, 53,548—grand total, 75,688. In Ireland the number of factories is 91; spindles, 532,303; power looms, 2517; steam power, 2646 horses; water power, 1886 horses; children under 13 years of age, males 7, females 31; males between 13 and 18 years old, 3429; females above 13, 16,393; males above 18, 4827; total, males, 8263; females, 16,424—grand total of persons employed in factories in Ireland, 24,687. Total for the United Kingdom: factories, 4330; spindles, 25,638,716; power looms, 298,916; steam power equal to 108,113, and water power to 26,104 horses; children between the ages of 11 and 13 in the silk throwing mills, 1737 males, and 3916 females; children under 13 in other factories who attend the schools, 19,400 males, and 15,722 females; males between 13 and 18, 67,864; males above 18, 157,866; females above 13, 329,577; total, males, 246,867; females, 349,215—grand total, 596,082. These returns show the great seats of the various manufactures in England to be Lancaster for cotton, York for wool and flax, and Chester for silk. In Ireland, Waterford for cotton, Cork for wool, Dublin for worsted, and Antrim for flax. In Scotland, Lanark for cotton and silk, Clackmannan and Stirling for wool, and Forfar for flax.

The fifth annual *Report of the Commissioners of Lunacy*, now issued, gives the following summary of the number and classes of insane persons confined in asylums, hospitals, and licensed houses on the 1st of January last:—Asylums: private patients, males 120, females 112; paupers, males 3150, females 3758, total 7140. Hospitals: private patients, males 412, females 453; paupers, males 175, females 168, total 1208. Metropolitan licensed houses: private patients, males 574, females 546; paupers, males 737, females 1038, total 2945. Provincial licensed houses: private patients, males 800, females 757; paupers, males 1106, females 1123, total 3786. Grand total of sexes and classes 15,079; of this number 238 have been found lunatic by inquisition, 264 are criminals, and 1036 are chargeable to counties or boroughs.

The Electric telegraph now gives notice of the *Approach of Storms*. This property of the invention has been discovered in America. The telegraph at Chiago and Toledo makes ship-masters at Cleveland and Buffalo, and also on Lake Ontario, aware of the approach of the north-west storm. The result is practically of great importance. A hurricane storm traverses the atmosphere at the rate of a carrier pigeon, namely sixty miles, an hour. A vessel in the port of New York, about to sail for New Orleans, may be telegraphed 20 hours in advance, that a south west-storm is advancing on the coast from the Gulf of Mexico. In Great Britain and Ireland the advantages to the shipping interest by the announcement of approaching storms, would be incalculable, by preventing them leaving safe harbours until after they had passed, or by signals on various parts of the coast, directing them to take shelter at the nearest port.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

On the evening of the 12th, the Queen gave the first of a series of *Dramatic Entertainments* at Windsor Castle, under the direction of Mr. Charles Kean. The play was the First Part of King Henry the Fourth. The veteran Bartley, after a long retirement from the stage, re-appeared in the character of Falstaff.

Viscount Ponsonby has *Resigned the Embassy at Vienna*, and Mr. Magenis will continue to act as Chargé d'Affaires until the arrival of his Lordship's successor.

The Honourable George Jerningham, now Secretary of the Embassy at Constantinople, is appointed Secretary of the Embassy at Paris.

The place of Deputy Ranger of Windsor Park, vacant by the death of Sir Thomas Fremantle, has been conferred on Captain F. H. Seymour, one of the Equerries in Waiting to Prince Albert.

The Rev. R. J. Butler, M.A., of Brasenose College, Oxford, and Chaplain to the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, was received into the Catholic Church at Rome on the 23rd of November last. This gentleman was formerly Warden of the House of Charity in Rose Street, Soho.

Sir Robert Monsey Rolfe, Vice-Chancellor, has been raised to the Peerage of the United Kingdom, by the title of Baron Cranworth, of Cranworth, in the county of Norfolk.

Mr. Joseph Hume having visited Southampton on the 3rd, to start a son for the West Indies, the Mayor of Southampton and about four hundred citizens of the town gave him a public entertainment. It was remarked that the admirers of the veteran economist were not solely of the Radical class, but included a good sprinkling of frugal Conservatives. Mr. Hume made a speech of encouragements, founded on the reminiscences of his long political experience; a marked feature of which was his declaration of opinion that Lord John Russell would willingly be a more liberal minister if supported by a more liberal house of commons.

Pensions on the Civil List of 100*l.* a-year each have been granted to George Petrie, Esq., LL.D., and to J. Kitto, Esq., M.D. Mr. Petrie is a member of the Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts, and Vice-President of the Royal Irish Academy of Sciences. He is author of the well-known treatise on the "Round Towers of Ireland," and of many other antiquarian works. Dr. Kitto has been deaf and dumb from an accident when a boy, in spite of which difficulties he travelled through many lands in connection with the Missionary Society. With his physical failings he has done much for the cause of biblical literature, and is the author of many works, such as the "Pictorial Bible," "History of Palestine," "Cyclopædia of Biblical Literature," &c.

The committee of subscribers to the monument to the memory of the late *Lord Jeffrey* have decided that the memorial shall be a work of sculpture. The subscriptions in the hands of the committee amount to 2200*l.*, a sum which, it is hoped, will suffice to defray the cost of the statue, and to leave enough besides for the erection of a slight monument over the grave in the Dean Cemetery, at Edinburgh. The statue will probably be placed in the Outer Parliament House.

At a *Sheriff's Sale at Derrynane* some time since, the whole of the splendid furniture and other household goods were sold for the sum of 364*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, and were bought in by the National Bank of Ireland. The purchase has been impeached as fraudulent, and on application to the court, an issue has been granted to try the fact by a jury. The prices at which the National Bank bought the furniture may be imagined from the fact, that the entire furniture, &c., of the "Liberator's Room," state bed, &c., sold for 3*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*

A young lady has *Escaped from the Convent at Banbury*. She was known there as sister Antonia; her "worldly name" is unknown, but she is understood to be very highly connected. The local newspaper gives the following particulars:—"Her dissatisfaction with a conventual life was first made known out of the house by letters, which she contrived to have conveyed by children in the school, to parties of the Protestant faith in Banbury. An English New Testament, which by chance came into her possession, disturbed the opinions in which she had been educated; she determined on getting away from St. John's, and resolved to do so early on Monday morning, and again on Tuesday morning; but at the moment of the contemplated escape her heart failed her. Shortly after nine o'clock, the school hour, on Tuesday, while the other inmates were engaged, she took an opportunity of getting away unobserved; and, for some reason, instead of going to the parties in Banbury, with whom she had been in communication, and who had offered her shelter, set off on the road for Oxford. At Adderbury, three miles from Banbury, she became tired and inquired for a Protestant minister; she was taken to the house of the Rev. Mr. Crickett, an Independent minister, where she was kindly received, both by Mr. and Mrs. Crickett, with whom she was remaining yesterday. She has been supplied with clothing, and the garments peculiar to the sisterhood, in which she went away, have been returned to the convent. Before she left St. John's, we believe an application was made by the parties with whom she had been in communication, to a neighbouring magistrate, for his aid to remove her; and he wrote on the subject to Sir George Grey, the Secretary of State; but she did not wait for their interference, but took an opportunity of acting alone, as we have described."

The *Will of the late King of the French* has been proved at Doctors' Commons. The personal property is sworn at under 100,000*l.* The will is dated at Claremont, October 16, 1848, and is very concise. He bequeaths his house and gardens at Palermo to Queen Marie Amelie for ever. He gives all his property in England and America to the Queen, for her life, with reversion to her children, subject to such provisions as her Majesty may make in her life-time, and in the case of any informal or incomplete bequest of it by the Queen, it is to be divided into nine shares. Two of these shares go to the Duc de Nemours, and one to the Comte de Paris and the Duc de Chartres—to be held by them as joint tenants—that is to say, to be divided between them. The remaining shares are divided, one each to Louise, Queen of the Belgians, the Prince de Joinville, the Duc d'Aumale, the Duchess de Saxe Coburg Gotha, the Duc de Montpensier, and Philip Alexandre (a grandson), Duc de Wurtemberg. The ex-monarch bequeaths all his money in the house at Claremont, and in the bank, at his death, to his Queen, subject only to the payment of his just debts and funeral expenses. The Queen is appointed executrix of this will during her life-time; and after her decease, Mr. W. E. Marjoribanks, Sir E. Antrobus, Bart., Mr. W. M. Coulthurst, Mr. E. Marjoribanks, jun., and Mr. J. Parkinson, of Lincoln's-Inn Fields, are to act as trustees. The dispositions of his property in France are not proved in England.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

Colonel R. M. Johnson, Vice-President of the Republic under the Van Buren administration, died on the 19th ult., at his residence in Kentucky state, in the 70th year of his age.

Lieutenant Lorimer, one of the senior military knights, died at Windsor on the 25th ult. He entered the army in 1805, and served in the Peninsula, at Walcheren, and at the siege of Flushing. He was severely wounded at Corunna and Flushing, and had received the war medal and clasp for Corunna.

Sir William Whymper, M.D., died on the 28th ult. at Dover, aged 65 years. He served in the Coldstream Guards as Surgeon, throughout the Peninsular war, and was present at Waterloo. He had received the war medal with five clasps. In 1825 Dr. Whymper became Surgeon-Major of the Coldstream Guards, and in 1836 he retired on half-pay. He was in 1832 knighted by the late king.

Mr. R. Gilfillan, well known as the author of several beautiful songs in the Scottish dialect, died suddenly on the 4th inst. from a fit of apoplexy, with which he was seized while in attendance at his office as Collector for the Commissioners of Police in Leith.

General The Hon. Sir William Lumley, G.C.B., died on the 15th inst., aged 82 years. He was son of the fourth Earl of Scarborough. At the age of eighteen he entered the cavalry service, in 1787, as a cornet in the 10th Dragoons, and served in

Ireland during the rebellion of 1798, in Egypt, South America, and the Peninsula. The colonelcy of the First Dragoon Guards is vacant by his death.

Admiral PAYNE died of apoplexy on the 9th inst. He was hunting, when he fell from his horse in a fit, and died in a few minutes. He was between 70 and 80 years of age, and, on account of the tendency which he had exhibited for such attacks, had been warned by his medical attendants to avoid the excitement of the chase.

Mrs. BELL MARTIN died recently at New York, after a short illness, within ten days of her arrival in the United States. She was, previous to her marriage, Miss Martin, of Galway, and her husband took the family name when she married. Her estates were the largest in Ireland, her tenantry amounting to twenty thousand, and her lands extending over two hundred thousand acres; but the property on her succeeding to it was so heavily mortgaged that she was obliged to relinquish all, and trust to her literary talents for her support. It was with this object she went with her husband to the United States. A premature confinement was the immediate cause of the illness which terminated in her death. Mrs. Bell Martin was a large contributor to the "Encyclopédie des Gens du Monde." She was the author of "St. Etienne," a tale of the Vendean war, and of "Julia Howard," a novel recently published.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE principal and most unhappy feature of the month's Colonial news, is the almost utter desolation of the southern shores of the island of Jamaica by the scourge of cholera. Its ravages began with the opening of October; and, when the last accounts left, in the middle of November, had not perceptibly abated. The chief mortality had been at Port Royal, Spanish Town, and Kingston. The deaths in the latter place (a town of forty thousand inhabitants, of which nine-tenths are Negro) averaged a hundred and fifty a-day, and on some days greatly exceeded two hundred. Resources had failed both for the dead and living; neither doctors nor medicines were procurable; it was impossible to supply coffins in any proportion to the demand; and crowds of dead bodies, carried in carted heaps to the graveyards, and exposed for want of hands to bury them, lay poisoning the panic-stricken survivors, till at last flung into trenches opened by convicts and soldiers. The accounts read like pages torn out of De Foe's History of the Plague; and it is well worthy of note that the previous condition of the island confirms all that has been lately ascertained of the sanitary laws that govern the disease, and the causes that contribute to its virulence. It is another lesson for ourselves,—with none of our metropolitan graveyards yet closed by the Extra-mural Act! with even some re-opened that were shut in sheer fright at the cholera last summer! and with the imminent prospect before us of enormous additions to our London population without approach to any means of accommodation at all adequate to the increase!

The last *Overland Mail* from Bombay brings no political intelligence of interest. The greatest tranquillity prevails in India. The Governor-General was preparing to proceed to Lahore and the Peshawur frontier. The Nepaulese Ambassador arrived at Bombay on the 6th ult. from Suez. The Nimrod government iron steamer has been wrecked. The late rumour of the Affreedees having made a descent upon the salt-mines of the Kohat frontier remained without confirmation. Piracies were of frequent occurrence in the waters of the Indian Archipelago; Java is tranquil. The Chinese on the Western coast of Borneo have discontinued their resistance against the Dutch. At Hong Kong the fever has declined among the troops. The gangs of Chinese robbers in the province of Kwangse are gradually dispersing. A fearful occurrence took place at Macao on the 29th Oct., when the Portuguese frigate the Donna Maria blew up, and officers and men, about 200 in number, perished, with the exception of one officer and fifteen men.

The accounts from *Jamaica* are to the 1st instant. The ravages of the cholera have rendered the island a scene of desolation. On the 7th of October last, Mr. Watson, the surgeon of the naval hospital in Port Royal, announced that Asiatic cholera of a malignant type had made its appearance in that town. The inhabitants were at first incredulous, but facts soon convinced them of the truth, and plans were devised to stay the plague. A cholera hospital was established, and some of the surgeons of the fleet were sent ashore to assist. Government medical stores were distributed freely, but it was soon found that both the quantity of medical stores, and the number of medical men, were totally inadequate to the frightful extent of illness and suffering that prevailed. Upwards of 5000 persons have died in Kingston and Spanish Town alone. Numbers were so panic-stricken, that they would not apply for assistance, and no one knows that they have been ill and died. Some were found dead in cellars, where they had been lying dead for days. One of the most distressing things is the number of orphans, both black and white children, and their condition and future provision are now occupying the serious attention of the Jamaica authorities. Hundreds of children of tender age are left utterly destitute; for fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters have been swept away by the pestilence. They are to be seen in houses, forlorn and helpless. Infants are found lying on the floor, forsaken by friends and relatives, for they are sleeping in death, and these innocents are kept from perishing by the visits of the benevolent. The dread of cholera seems to have destroyed the social affections. Some of the poor blacks have been found to place their dead relatives before the doors of their neighbours, to avoid the infection, or because they were unable to pay the expense of burial. It was urgently suggested that trenches should be dug, and that corpses should be buried without coffins, in order that the expense of the latter should be saved, and go towards providing an orphan fund. On the 23rd the cholera abated in Spanish Town, Port Royal, and Kingston, but broke out in other places. On this day Dr. Macfayden, an eminent physician, died. As there was not above one medical man to 5000 persons in Jamaica, and as four medical men had already fallen victims to their unremitting exertions in the cause of suffering humanity, it may easily be imagined how ill he could be spared.

From *Canada* we learn that there is a rumour that the seat of government is about to be removed 500 miles down the St. Lawrence in June or July next.

A *Temperance Meeting* at St. Hyacinthe, Lower Canada, recently excited the people so much against drunkenness, that a mob collected, proceeded to a building occupied as a brewery and distillery, owned by Mr. Phillips, of Laprairie, and entirely demolished it, smashing everything they could lay their hands on. Similar ourages were committed at a neighbouring tavern, and further mischief was threatened.

The *Sydney* journals contain reports of a great public meeting on the 12th of August, to consider Governor Fitzroy's despatch to the Colonial Office on the meetings in June last, on the subject of transportation. The following chief resolution was carried unanimously—"That this meeting having had under its consideration a despatch from his excellency Sir Charles A. Fitzroy, dated 30th June 1849, transmitting to Earl Grey the great protest of the inhabitants of Sydney, in public meetings assembled, against the renewal of transportation, hereby declares, that in that despatch his Excel-

leney has, in a case of the utmost importance to the general welfare of this colony, grossly misrepresented a series of facts of public notoriety, traduced the character of a large majority of the colonists of all classes and in all parts of the territory, and betrayed the interests of the colony into the hands of its enemies."

The papers also contain reports of the great debate in the Legislative Council, which ended on the 21st of August, on Dr. Lang's own motion inviting inquiry into the charges preferred against him by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Council unanimously resolved, that there were "foundations for the charges," and particularly for the one which accused Dr. Lang of pledging the duplicates of land-orders representing land of which he was only the trustee—the said pledging "was a fraud upon his cestui que trusts, and highly discreditable."

The *Hobart Town* papers describe, what some of them declare to have been, an attempt to escape to California by Mr. Smith O'Brien. So far as they agree, they state that a rowing-boat approached a sandy cove; that Mr. O'Brien ran up to his waist to get to it; that a soldier rushed and knocked a hole in the bottom of the boat with his gun, and so took possession of Mr. O'Brien and the men. But the different accounts are at variance with each other; and it seems agreed by all that the Government has made no difference in the treatment of Mr. O'Brien.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

A meeting of the *Colonist Society* was held at the rooms of the Canterbury Association on the 4th inst., to promote arrangements for the simultaneous departure of the next or main body of the Canterbury colonists. Captain Simeon presided and gave the necessary explanations. The main body of the substantial colonists will sail the first week in next June in a fleet of ships; but in the mean time there will be no intermission of the arrangements for pouring out a constant stream of labouring emigrants. The Rev. Dr. Rowley, who is going out to the colony as "head of the chapter," read a correspondence between the society and the association on the subject of the coming departure, and also on a proposal to give the colonists some additional facilities in dealing with the grants of land which they buy in this country.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

PENDING the new "Congress of Vienna" which is about to be held under the name of the "Conferences of Dresden," the interest of Continental politics is almost wholly suspended. France is so marvellously quiet, that there is nothing better worth mention than the fact of M. de Montalembert's introduction of a bill against the desecration of the Sabbath, founded doubtless on the principle which he naïvely expressed in his report, namely, that though the State is not strong enough to govern the Church, the Church is abundantly so to govern the State. And Prince Schwarzenberg has found himself with so little to do, that he has been publishing his correspondence with Lord Palmerston in the matter of hangman Haynau's mustachios, and the damage they received at Messrs. Barclay and Perkins's brewery. From these documents it would seem that, because the English Government refused to institute any inquiry into the details of this alleged outrage other than by the usual forms and processes of English law, the Austrian Government "reserves to itself the right to consider, *in a similar case*, whether it should or should not act reciprocally towards a British subject in Austria." We transcribe the warning, for the benefit of British tourists, especially such as may not think Haynau a hero.

The anniversary of the election of the President of the *French Republic*, the 10th instant, was celebrated in Paris by a splendid fête. The Prefect of the Seine was the nominal host; and besides the chief guest, there were gathered round him, in the Hôtel de Ville, ministers, ambassadors, and distinguished politicians, nearly two hundred. The programme prescribed the single toast "To the President of the Republic," and relied on a calculated spontaneity for the President's complimentary return of a toast "To the City of Paris." M. Berger, the Prefect of the Seine, in proposing the toast, congratulated his hearers on the fact that now the noise alone of its fêtes interrupts the laborious calm of the Hôtel de Ville; and then ascribed it to the President Napoleon's efforts and devotedness, that citizens were at length permitted to set aside all the interests of politics and speak of the interests of Paris only. The President replied in a dexterous speech which was well received. One passage in it, however, gave rise to much comment: "To tell me," he said, "that France has beheld her prosperity increase during the last two years, is to address to me the eulogium which touches me the most. At present I am happy to be able to admit that calm has returned to men's minds; that the dangers which existed two years back have disappeared; and that, notwithstanding the uncertainty of matters, a future is reckoned on, because it is felt that *if modifications are to take place*, they will be accomplished without trouble." After the banquet, the magnificent salons of the Hôtel de Ville, which are unique in Europe, were thrown open to between five and six thousand guests. Bands of music were stationed in the Salle des Fêtes, the Salle du Trône, and the great ball-room; and the dancing was kept up with great spirit till four o'clock in the morning.

General Schramm, the Minister of War, has demanded an extraordinary credit of 3,218,501 francs, for the expenses during the first six months of 1851 of the army of occupation in Rome. He stated, that it was impossible as yet to predict the precise moment when the presence of the French troops may be dispensed with.

A Bill has been introduced into the Assembly by M. de Montalembert, for the better observance of the Sabbath.

A Bill introduced into the National Assembly by the Minister of War, for an extraordinary credit of eight millions and a half of francs to meet the expenses of the levy of 40,000 men which is to compose the army of reserve on the north-eastern frontier of France, was referred to a committee, who made a report, drawn up by M. Remusat, proposing that the Bill should be adopted, but at the same time proposing that the Assembly shall adopt a resolution declaring its convictions that in the questions which divide Germany at this moment, the policy of neutrality, such as is expressed and defined in the Message of the President of the Republic, is the only policy suitable to France. On the report being made to the Assembly, the proposition was adopted without any debate.

The affairs of *Germany* have been greatly tranquillised by a convention concluded at Olmutz on the 29th of November, between the ministers of Austria and Prussia. It was agreed that the Prussian troops should co-operate with the Federal armies for the restoration of the electoral authority in Hesse; that a Prussian commissioner should proceed with a Federal commissioner to the Duchy of Holstein to summon the insurgents to lay down their arms; and that in the event of refusal, a body of Prussian troops would join with the Federal forces in the necessary coercive measures. The question of the internal constitution of Germany was reserved for the Free Conferences of Dresden, which commenced on

the 23rd inst. This convention was ratified by the King of Prussia on the 1st inst., and about the same day by the Imperial Government. Advices from Berlin, of the 10th inst., state that the reduction of the army has been decreed. The Prussian troops were still in the positions of Hersfeld. The Austrian forces continued to advance, having occupied Marburg, where they command the railroad from Frankfort to Cassel. General Von der Horst had been appointed Commander in Chief of the Holstein army, *vice* Willisen, who has resigned. Herr von Manteuffel, who has been appointed the Prussian Minister for foreign affairs, has left Berlin to attend the Dresden conference. It is not known what are his plans, nor what arrangement respecting the future was come to at Olmutz between him and Schwarzenl erg, the Austrian Minister; but it has been asserted in Vienna that the admission of the whole of the Austrian provinces into the confederation will not be proposed, but merely a sufficient portion to equalise the power of Austria to that of Prussia; and the province of Galicia is mentioned for this purpose. The incorporation of Posen, and Prussian Poland, in 1848, increased the extent of Prussian territories within the confederation, and therefore, it is believed, Austria will demand a corresponding increase of her German territories. The commercial relations of Germany will probably form one of the topics of discussion, and it is expected that Austria will propose the same plans for a commercial system which she put forth last year. It is even stated that a provisional arrangement will be proposed which is to last until 1856, when the definitive arrangements are to come into existence.

The *Sardinian* Chambers were opened by the King in person on the 23rd of November. The following passage of his speech, referring to the differences with the Holy See, was greatly applauded by the Chambers and the people:—"The efforts of my government have not succeeded hitherto in overcoming the difficulties which have arisen with the Court of Rome, in consequence of certain laws which the powers of the state could not refuse to introduce in the new political and legal organisation of the country. The rule of our conduct has constantly been the respect we all profess for the Holy See, in conjunction with a firm resolution to uphold the independence of our legislation. Faithful to our duties, and persevering in the exercise of our rights, we hope that time and the happy influence of religion and civilisation will enable us to establish that harmony which is one of the first wants of the social state."

The Senate of *Piedmont*, in its sitting of the 16th, passed the bill abolishing the laws on primogeniture, by a majority of 34 votes to 49.

The most remarkable news from *Spain* is that M. Bravo Murillo, the Minister of Finance, has resigned his office in consequence of a difference with the Minister of War, relating to reductions in the expenditure of his department.—The municipality of *Seville* has decided that the portrait of Cardinal Wiseman should be placed in the hall of the chapter, as being one of the most illustrious sons of the capital of Andalusia.

Accounts from *Aleppo* state that a dreadful chastisement has been inflicted on the rebels who were the perpetrators of the massacre of the Christians, which we recorded last month. On the evening of the 7th ult., Kerim Pasha invited the principal chiefs of the insurgents to come to him. They accepted his invitation, persuaded that the fear of fresh disturbances would make them respected. Kerim Pasha had them placed under arrest. The insurgents, finding their chiefs did not return, rushed to arms, to the number of about 10,000, and insolently demanded their liberation. The Ottoman General replied by charging them at the head of 4000 Imperial troops, whom he had assembled in the inside of some barracks. The combat was desperate, and lasted more than twenty-four hours. Three Mussulman quarters of the city, which were the seat of the revolt, have been almost entirely destroyed; 1800 of the rebels fell in the struggle, and the remainder, with the inhabitants of the above quarters, have fled from Aleppo, the Turkish cavalry pursuing them. Not a single Christian fell in this terrible affair. All the property of the rebels will be devoted by the authorities to indemnify the Christians for their losses on the 14th and 15th of October, and to rebuild the three churches which were burnt.

The Message of the President of the *United States* to Congress, on the commencement of the session, was presented on the 3rd inst. It is a temperate document, and appears to have given general satisfaction. Its tone with reference to the foreign relations of the United States is decidedly pacific. With respect to the new territories, he urges a prompt adjudication on the Mexican land titles in California, and presses for the extension of the land laws to Utah and New Mexico. He recommends that the gold lands should be sold in small quantities, and that a branch mint should without loss of time be established in California. He also calls attention to the necessity that exists for organising one or more regiments of mounted men for the protection of the frontiers of New Mexico, and to help to repress the predatory Indians. The message contains important suggestions respecting the revision of the republic's naval code, rendered necessary by the recent abolition of flogging; the establishment of lighthouses and improvement of harbours; and the appointment of a tribunal to adjudicate all claims upon government. Not less interesting is the president's recommendation that an uniform rate of postage, of three cents for prepaid letters and five cents for unpaid letters, should be adopted, whatever the distance that they are conveyed. The most unsatisfactory parts of the message are those which relate to customs duties and to the Fugitive Slave Bill. Respecting the former, Mr. Fillmore's views are decidedly protectionist. He is of opinion that the federal revenue should be raised mainly by import duties; that these duties should be as far as possible specific, *ad valorem* rates when unavoidable being estimated on the home instead of the foreign valuation; and that those rates should be so levied as to benefit incidentally home industry by shielding it from destructive foreign competition. On the subject of slavery, the president takes his stand on the Fugitive Slave Act, the principle and policy of which, in every particular, he strenuously defends.

Since the meeting of Congress, no business of importance has been transacted in either house. With respect to the revenue and expenditure of the Union, it is stated, that the receipts for the last year into the United States Treasury were 47,421,748 dollars;—expenditure, 43,002,168 dollars; and that the public debt has been reduced 495,276 dolars.

Mr. George Thompson, the Member for the Tower Hamlets, attempted to deliver an anti-slavery lecture at Boston, on the 14th of November, but was not allowed a hearing. He was attended on the platform by William Garrison, Frederick Douglas, and other representatives of the anti-slavery party. The assembly determined to drown the voices of the orators: they began with groaning and hissing; then they cheered for "the Union," "Daniel Webster," "old Briggs," and "Jenny Lind;" they groaned for "John Bull;" a ring was formed on the floor, and one or two commenced dancing; the gas was turned down, and the proceedings terminated with the canticle "We won't go home till morning," in general chorus.

The existence of a third ring around Saturn, which has been some time suspected, has been positively ascertained by the astronomers at Cambridge, Massachusetts. It is interior to the two others, and, therefore, at less distance from the planet.

Submarine electric telegraph wires have been laid down on the bed of the Hudson, above Fort Lee, so as to give a free communication with the south and west.

A temperance demonstration on a large scale was held at the Tabernacle, New York, on the 18th of November; 1700 dollars were collected, including 250 dollars from P. T. Barnum. Life memberships of the society were bestowed on Mdlle. Jenny Lind, President Fillmore, Hon. Henry Clay, Hon. Mr. Clayton, General Cass, Hon. W. H. Seward, Governor Hunt, &c., &c.

According to the report of the chief of the police in New York, there were more than 10,000 persons arrested for misdemeanours and felonies in that city during the past three months, where there are also 4267 licensed drinking-houses, and 718 unlicensed ditto!

There are at present seventeen lines of submarine telegraph at work in the United States under the Hudson, Harlem, Connecticut, and Delaware rivers.

The number of immigrants who arrived in New York during the month of October, amounted to upwards of 36,000.

At Queensborough, North Carolina, a man named M'Bride was lately sentenced to receive twenty lashes and to be exposed in the pillory—*because he was an abolitionist.*

Near Victoria, Texas, the Indians have committed several murders of late, and carried off two daughters of Mr. Thomas, who were fearfully outraged, and afterwards found nearly dead in the woods.

An instance of summary justice by *Lynch Law* has taken place at Georgetown, in California. A man, named Devine, had taken to gambling, and as he was in the habit of losing his money, his wife hid all that came into her possession. One day, having lost all his money, he demanded the money she had hid. She refused to deliver it if he intended to use it in gambling, whereupon Devine threatened to kill her. As he seized his gun, she blew out the candle and fled into another room. He, however, discharged it at her. The contents passed through the door, and killed her. An enraged crowd, several hundred strong, assembled forthwith, set Devine on a horse, and rode him off to a tree. Here they made him kneel upon the horse's back, put the rope around his neck, and drove the horse off, leaving him hanging from the branch of the tree.

A terrible steamboat disaster occurred at San Francisco on the 29th of October, by which a number of lives were destroyed, variously estimated at from seventy-five to a hundred. This was caused by the explosion of the boiler of the steamer Sagamore, which took place just as she was leaving her wharf for Stockton. A large number of passengers were on board. Human bodies and masses of timber were at once scattered in every direction. The boat was a complete wreck, and from her fragments were taken the dead and dying, mutilated in the most shocking manner. The master of the boat was blown a distance of fifty feet into the water. He escaped with his life, but not without considerable injury. The cause of this dreadful waste of human life has not been ascertained.

An attempt was made on the life of General Belza, President of *Bolivia*, on the 6th of September, while walking with Colonel Laguna, President of the Senate, Don Augustine Morales, and others, when a student named Sotomayer fired a pistol, which wounded Belza in the face. As he fell, another pistol was fired by Morales, but the ball only slightly grazed him. Some slight attempt at a revolution appears subsequently to have been made, but without success. The President of the Senate was implicated in the conspiracy, condemned to be shot, and executed on the 13th of September. Morales and Sotomayer have also been condemned to death.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE question of a possibility of English copyright in books by foreign writers has again been raised in the courts, and a decision pronounced in the very teeth of that which was last recorded. Vice-Chancellor Knight Bruce has declared that the object of the Act of Anne *must have been* to promote literature in general. The Court of Exchequer has declared that the object of the Act *could only have been* to protect the rights of British authors exclusively. Between these two decisions a Court of Error will shortly have to pronounce, when there surely can be little doubt that the strict construction of the Copyright Act will be adhered to, and the decision of the Exchequer affirmed. In such case it will be hardly possible to avoid the necessity of fresh legislation on the subject, and it is desirable that the opportunity should not be lost of placing the entire law affecting an author's rights in England on a more satisfactory basis than it rests upon at present.

There have been few books of the higher class among the publications of the past month. The most prominent have been an excellent translation of Eckermann's *Conversations with Goethe;* a treatise on the diffusion of *Christianity in Ceylon*, by Sir James Emerson Tennent, with the opportune and valuable moral that general education is the only sound basis or preparative for intelligent religion; a somewhat elaborate dissertation on the *Dynamical Theory of the Earth*, by Mr. Tucker Ritchie; a republication of Disraeli's *Commentaries on the Reign of Charles the First*, revised by the author, with a preface by his son; and a volume of *Correspondence of Sir Isaac Newton and Professor Cotes*, curiously illustrative of the philosopher's life and history.

But Christmas has brought its usual supply (though somewhat less abundant than in former years) of pictorial volumes, and gift-books adapted to the season. The most rich in point of engravings is Mr. Alaric Watts's *Lyrics of the Heart*, which comes nearer to the graphic wealth of the Stothard and Turner illustrations of Rogers's poems, than any book which has been published recently. Another pretty present is *Christmas with the Poets*, with woodcuts by Mr. Birket Foster. Another is *Winged Thoughts*, being a series of illuminated pictures of birds, by Mr. Owen Jones. The author of "Mary Barton" has given us *The Moorland Cottage*, Mr. Thackeray *The Kickleburys on the Rhine*, and Mr. Leigh Hunt a volume of *Table-Talk*, to promote the good feeling and mirth of the season; Mr. Richard Doyle, with the same praiseworthy purpose, has illustrated afresh the *Story of Jack and the Giants*, with very marvellous and peculiar knowledge of the wonders of nursery and fairy land; and Mr. Ruskin has had the help of the same ingenious pencil in setting forth a not less marvellous or delightful *Legend of the King of the Golden River*.

To enumerate the mere titles of the pamphlets which have been suggested by the *Papal Aggression*, would more than fill the whole of the present sheet. But we must not omit to record that Doctor Pusey has come forward with a Letter, vindicating the practice of confession, asserting that whenever it is freely sought he administers it, that he has done this most extensively, and that he looks upon the popularity of the practice, since he moved in it, as the manifest work of God.

The tales called *Wuthering Heights and Agnes Grey* have been republished, with a preface by the author of "Jane Eyre," in which she avows herself a woman, states that the names of Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell, were assumed by three sisters, daughters of a clergyman in Yorkshire, and that of these she is now herself the only survivor. The brief narrative of the early ambition and premature death of Ellis and Acton Bell is a very sad one.

The month has produced no dramatic novelty, the theatres being occupied with preparations for their Christmas entertainments, produced as usual on "boxing night" the 26th, and consisting of burlesque extravaganzas and pantomimes.

Mr. Bartley, after appearing in his old character of Falstaff before the Queen at Windsor, has repeated it several times at the Princess's Theatre.

The "Grand National Concerts" at Her Majesty's Theatre have been brought to a close, after having, it is understood, been attended with considerable pecuniary loss to the body of amateurs by whom they were carried on.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of Nov. 29.—JOSEPH CURL, East-Winch, Norfolk, grocer.—THOMAS DYSON, Bradford, Yorkshire, linen-draper.—MORGAN POWELL EDWARDS, Tredegar, Monmouthshire, linendraper.—ANN GRAVES, Snaith, Yorkshire, innkeeper.—WILLIAM HARKNETT, Courland-grove, Clapham, and Lavender-hill, Wandsworth-road, builder.—WILLIAM STRANGE, sen., Navarino-grove, Dalston, bookseller.—ROBERT JOHN WALLIS, Loughborough, Leicestershire, wine and spirit merchant.—CHRISTOPHER WARE, York, saddler.

Dec. 3. NUMA BERTON, Princes-street, Hanover-square, tailor.—HENRY MATTHEW EAST, Mark-lane, City, stationer.—JOHN FIRTH, Leeds, linen-draper.—JOHN GOLLOP, Beaminster, Dorsetshire, builder.—JOHN MOORE, Nottingham, cabinet-maker.—RICHARD NORTHOVER, Skinner-street, Bishopsgate-street, and Cheapside, City, lint-manufacturer.—ROBERT RISING, Frith-street, Soho, and Lower Berkeley-street, bookseller.—HENRY SMITH, Woolwich, Kent, linendraper.—JAMES SMITH, Darlington, Durham, boot-maker.

Dec. 6. HERBERT TEWSON BAINES, Camden-road, Camden New Town, linendraper.—GEORGE BLAKEY, Lincoln, dealer in perfumery.—HENRY BYSHE, Brighton, builder.—JAMES CARTER, Manchester-terrace, Kilburn, builder.—MARY ANN COLLINSON, Middle-road, Brixton, milliner.—WILLIAM SOLOMON COWPER, Bishopsgate-street without, and New-street, Dorset-square, grocer.—THOMAS DAVEY, Liskeard, Cornwall, seedsman.—JOHN DAVIES, Kingston, Herefordshire, grocer.—ANTONINO GUISEPPE GAUDIANO, and ENRICO CICOPIERE ST. CLAIR, Great St. Helen's, City, merchants.—RICHARD GREEN, jun., Brighton, ironmonger.—JOSEPH HARPER, Ponsonby-place, Vauxhall-bridge-road, coal-merchant.—WILLIAM HEYGATE, Watford, Northamptonshire, and Chardstock, Dorsetshire, brickmaker.—JAMES JOLLEY and WILLIAM JACKSON, Wigan, Lancashire, acetic acid manufacturers.—RICHARD KAYE, Liverpool, butcher.—FREDERICK GEALE MONSERRAT, Cheltenham, wine and spirit merchant.—SAMUEL PEARSE, Topsham, Devonshire, coal-merchant.—ABRAHAM PROVOST, Peterborough, linendraper.—WILLIAM STANTON, Buckingham, watchmaker.

Dec. 10. ADOLPH BEREND, and ISIDORE BLOOMENTHAL, Weymouth-place, New-Kent-road, cigar-merchants.—JOHN PALMER BURNELL, Moorgate-street, and Coleman-street, City, earthenware dealer.—GERARD BURTON, Whitechapel-road, linendraper.—EDWARD CALDWELL, Manchester, share-broker.—EDMUND CHADWICK, Manchester, starch manufacturer.—JOHN CURD, Grove-street, Camden Town, cheesemonger.—NATHANIEL JOHN HONE, Reading, Berkshire, common-brewer.—ALEXANDER HONEYMAN, Deptford, builder.—JAMES KITE, Crewkerne, Somersetshire, wine and spirit merchant.—WILLIAM SIMPSON, Manchester, starch manufacturer.—GEORGE MORTIMER SMITH, Ironbridge, Shropshire, bookseller.

Dec. 13. SIMON BERNARD, Warwick-street, Regent-street, embroiderer.—WILLIAM COUSINS, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, coach-builder.—HENRY MATTHEW EAST, Mark-lane, City, stationer.—GILES ECKERSLEY, Tyldesley, Lancashire, victualler.—CHRISTOPHER GRINDELL and JAMES GRACE, Jermyn-street, St. James's, licensed victuallers.—SAUL INGAMELLS, March, Cambridgeshire, machinist.—GEORGE JOHNSTONE, Newbury, Berkshire, publican.—JAMES LETTS, Leamington Priors, Warwickshire, miller.

Dec. 17 GEORGE BONNY, Gravesend, licensed victualler.—GEORGE LEA, Upper Belgrave-place, Pimlico, and Nunhead-lane, Peckham-rye, coal-merchant.—THOMAS MATTHEWS, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, licensed victualler.—GEORGE MAY, Cursitor-street, Chancery-lane, builder.—SAMUEL MOYER, Old-street, St. Luke's, linendraper.—JOHN PULLEN, Powls-place, Great Ormond-street, lodging-house keeper.—GEORGE STEELE, Durham, grocer.

Dec. 20. JAMES MAYHEW, Cansdale, Norwich, draper.—THOMAS EVANS, Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire, innkeeper.—SAMUEL JEFFRYES, Eltham, Kent, maltster.—WILLIAM LAYCOCK, Liverpool, iron merchant.—JOHN LINDSAY, Neath, Glamorganshire, grocer.—SEPTIMUS FREDERICK MARTYN, Bishop Auckland, Durham, draper.—CHARLES ROBINSON, Liverpool, sail-maker.—JOHN VOLLER, Landport, Hampshire, builder.—SAMUEL WILLETT, sen., Cheltenham, plumber.

Dec. 24. JOHN BARBER, Eaton Locon, Bedfordshire, builder.—HENRY HAMER, Blackfriars-road, linendraper.—JOHN NIX HARLOW, Ramsgate, wine merchant.—CHARLES MARSON, Newmarket, Cambridgeshire.—GEORGE MILTON, Elizabeth-terrace, Liverpool-road, Islington, contractor.—JOHN BURGOYNE PILLIN and GEORGE ALFRED PILLIN, Featherstone-buildings, Holborn, sword-cutlers.

Dec. 27. FREDERICK YOUNG, North-place, Kingsland-road, cheesemonger.—WILLIAM MITCHELL and WILLIAM BINNS, Barnsley, Yorkshire, iron-founders.—JOSHUA UNWIN, Bradford, stuff-manufacturer.—JOHN BARKER, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchant.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

Nov. 28. JOHN ROBERT WRIGHT, Leeds, currier.

Dec. 6. JOSEPH NYE, Milkpond wharf, Park-road, Old-Kent-road, machinist.

Dec. 13. WILLIAM MAYER, Bateman's-row, Shoreditch, timber merchant.

Dec. 21. CHARLES MIDDLETON KERNOT, West Cowes, Isle of Wight, chemist.

THE STOCK AND SHARE MARKETS.

City, Dec. 27.

A steadily improving tendency was manifested in the English Stock Market at the commencement of the month. A good many operations, chiefly based upon the more favourable aspect of Continental politics, were entered into, and the price of Consols went gradually up from $96\frac{5}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, at which it stood on the 29th ult., to $98\frac{1}{2}$, which it reached on the 12th inst. On that day the dividend of 30*s.* was taken off the price, making the quotation $96\frac{7}{8}$ to 97. The market then remained very steady till yesterday, when the unexpected intelligence of the Bank of England having raised its rate of discount from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent. caused a fall from $97\frac{1}{4}$ to $96\frac{3}{8}$. To-day the market leaves off with a steadier appearance at $96\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ ex. div.

The Railway Share Market has been the scene of great activity. Very extensive speculations have been entered into, besides a large genuine business, and prices of all descriptions have experienced a marked rise. The Bank measure of yesterday, above referred to, caused a rapid fall in this market also, but prices to-day are recovering.

STOCKS.

	Prices during the Month.		
	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols . .	$98\frac{3}{4}$	$96\frac{3}{8}$	$96\frac{7}{8}$ex.div
Three per Cent. Reduced . .	$97\frac{7}{8}$	$95\frac{3}{4}$	$97\frac{1}{8}$
Three and a quarter per Cents..	$99\frac{1}{2}$	$97\frac{1}{2}$	$98\frac{1}{2}$
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860 .	$7\frac{13}{16}$	$7\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{13}{16}$
Bank Stock	$214\frac{1}{2}$	211	$213\frac{1}{2}$
India Stock	271	268	271
South Sea Stock	$108\frac{1}{2}$	108	$108\frac{1}{2}$
Exchequer Bills	68*s.* prm.	63*s.* prm.	64*s.* prm.
India Bonds	88*s.* prm.	80*s.* prm.	83*s.* prm.

RAILWAYS.

Paid.		Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
50	Caledonian . . .	$11\frac{1}{8}$	$9\frac{7}{8}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$
20	Eastern Counties . .	$6\frac{3}{8}$	$5\frac{7}{8}$	6
25	Great Northern . .	$18\frac{7}{8}$	$14\frac{3}{4}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$
100	Great Western . . .	80	$71\frac{3}{4}$	77
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	$60\frac{1}{4}$	49	57
50	Leeds and Bradford . .	$96\frac{1}{2}$	$94\frac{1}{2}$	96
100	London and Brighton .	88	$84\frac{1}{2}$	87
100	London and North Western	$128\frac{1}{2}$	$118\frac{1}{2}$	123
100	London and S. Western .	$80\frac{3}{4}$	69	76
100	Midland	$50\frac{1}{4}$	$41\frac{3}{4}$	47
$17\frac{1}{2}$	North Staffordshire .	$10\frac{1}{8}$	$8\frac{1}{4}$	$9\frac{1}{4}$
30	South Eastern . . .	$24\frac{1}{8}$	$20\frac{1}{8}$	$22\frac{7}{8}$
25	York, Newc., and Berwick	$19\frac{7}{8}$	$16\frac{7}{8}$	$18\frac{3}{8}$
50	York and North Midland .	$24\frac{3}{8}$	$22\frac{1}{2}$	$22\frac{5}{8}$

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Dec. 27.

There has been scarcely any fluctuation in this market during the month. During the first fortnight prices were held firmly, but since then the market, both for English and Foreign Wheat, though the quantity of the former on sale is far from large, has been a shade weaker. The London weekly averages last announced are as follows:—

Wheat, per quarter, 43*s.* 4*d.*
Barley, 26*s.* 8*d.*
Oats, 18*s.* 8*d.*

Flour, Town made, delivered, per 280 lbs., 37*s.* to 40*s.*

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt., Waterford, 38*s.* to 46*s.*; Belfast, 42*s.* to 44*s.*
Beef, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*
Butter, per cwt., Dorset, 84*s.* to 98*s.*; Limerick, 72*s.* to 78*s.*
Cheese, per cwt., Cheshire, 50*s.* to 74*s.*; Wiltshire, 40*s.* to 44*s.*
Eggs, English, per 120, 9*s.* 6*d.*

Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 74*s.* to 84*s.*; Irish, 60*s.* to 68*s.*
Mutton, per 8 lbs., mid. to prime, 2*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 10*d.*
Potatoes, per ton.—York Regent's, 90*s.* to 100*s.*; Scotch, 65*s.* to 80*s.*
Pork, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 4*d.* to 4*s.*
Veal, per 8 lbs., 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt. — Grenada, 44*s.* to 47*s.* 6*d.*
Coffee, per cwt.—Good ord. native Ceylon, 56*s.* to 56*s.* 6*d.*; Bahia, 40*s.* to 48*s.*
Rice, per cwt.—Carolina, 21*s.* to 26*s.*

Sago, per cwt.—Pearl, 20*s.* 6*d.* to 28*s.*
Sugar, per cwt.—Good brown Jamaica, 38*s.* to 39*s.*; Yell Havana, 17*s.* 6*d.* to 22*s.*
Tea, per lb.—Good ord. Congou, 1*s.* 1*d.*; full flavoured Souchong, 1*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.*

Candles, per 12 lbs., 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*; Coals, per ton, 13*s.* 6*d.* to 17*s.*

OILS.

Pale Seal, per ton, 39*l.* | Sperm, 88*l.*

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